

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children’s Welfare

Glebe House School Early Years Staff must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

Promoting health and hygiene

1.15 Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
-----------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff explain the importance of this to the children
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas.

- Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- Dogs are not permitted to go in the nursery garden, and where possible we avoid cats entering the area, and cover sand trays etc to prevent contamination

Pets from home

- If a child brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet are informed. We obtain written permission from parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. We complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed adhered to.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Further guidance

- *HSC13 Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* and INDG259 An introduction to Health & Safety on www.hse.gov.uk

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Glebe House Trust Nurseries	name of setting
Held on	<u>November 2023</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>November 2024</u>	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee		
Name of signatory	<u>Susie Pull</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Area Manager Glebe Trust Nurseries</u>	