Animals in the setting

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment
Providers must keep premises and equipment clean, and be aware of, and comply with, requirements of health and safety legislation (including hygiene requirements).

8.6 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. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. GSC aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- GSC do not have any animals as pets , we are not able to provide a suitable environment for any animal and feel the welfare of the creature /animal would suffer.

Animals brought into the setting

- GSC encourages children to bring along their pets with their parent.
- Parents are required to arrange with staff a suitable time
- GSC always teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them .
- GSC ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- GSC staff carries out a risk assessment with the owner accounting for any hygiene or safety risk posed by the animal or creature.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, GSC carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- GSC contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, GSC will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- GSC follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- GSC advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation…A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

This policy was adopted by	GSC Ltd
On	May 2021
Date to be reviewed	May 2022
Signed on behalf of the management committee	Gaddesby School Community
Name of signatory	Linda Dunmore
Role of signatory	Manager