

Animals in the Nursery

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, it's animals and other living creatures as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures in the Nursery. We ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Visiting Animals

- DMNS will carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- DMNS Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals.
- Any animal brought in by visitors to show the children, are the responsibility of the owner.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed, and is responsible for the animal whilst it is in the Nursery.
- The owner will ensure that all visiting animals will have their vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming up to date.
- The owner will ensure that there is appropriate pet health care insurance, or another arrangement agreed for veterinary care should something occur whilst at the Nursery.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised at all times.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- DMNS Staff will wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if national guidance changes. Feedback from staff, parents, and stakeholders will always be welcomed.