**6.3 Animals at the pre-school**

**Policy Statement**

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Birth to 5 matters. This may include contact with animals/other living creatures, at the pre-school or on visits. We ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

**Procedures**

**Pets or visiting pets**

* We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal/ creature to keep as a pet.
* We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal/creature.
* We provide suitable housing for the animal/creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and kept safely.
* We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
* We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal/creature.
* We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance if appropriate.
* We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures are up-to-date and recorded if appropriate.
* Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal/creature and are supervised.
* Children wash their hands after handling the animal/creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
* Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
* If animals/creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they 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.

**Visits to or from the farms**

* Before a visit to or from the 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.
* The outing procedure is followed.
* Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
* Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud/debris and should not be worn indoors.
* When petting farms visit the settings we abide by their risk assessments and procedures.

**This policy was adopted at a meeting of Woolston Pre-Schools held on 10 Oct 2017 Reviewed December 2023**

**Role on committee: Nominated person**

Signed by

Date

Name of Signatory:

**Woolston Preschool manager**

Name Gemma Woodward

Date

Signature