

Safeguarding and welfare requirement: Safety
Providers must take responsible steps to ensure the safety of Children staff and others on the premises.

Animal safety

Policy statement

Gilderdale Nursery follows specific procedures and risk assessments in which to ensure the health and safety of children in contact with animals; those brought into the setting, on the surrounding farm and Nursery pets.

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

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets:

As part of the children's learning, we will have some pets in nursery to care for. These may include chickens, ducks, a tortoise and possibly a nursery dog.

- We take account the views of the parents and children when selecting an animal to keep as a pet in the nursery.
- We carry out a risk assessment on the animal/activity.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure it is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangement for holiday care for the animal.
- We will ensure we are registered with a local vet when we keep an animal as a pet.
- Children are taught the correct handling and care of the animal and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal waste or soiled bedding.
- Practitioners wear disposable gloves and apron when cleaning or handling soiled bedding.
- Allergies will be noted and the setting must be made aware of this by the parents.
- Any children with an allergy around animals must not be in contact with them.
- We will gain parent consent before any child is in contact with the animals in and around the setting.

Pets being brought into the setting:

As part of learning and parents as partners, we may have pet days where the children's pets can be brought into the setting.

- A risk assessment for an activity or occasion will be completed.
- Pets being brought into the setting will be accompanied by their owner.
- Children will be asked to wash hands after handling the animal.
- Children will always be supervised by the staff and owner.

Farm animals:

Due to the location of our nursery. We will always be close to farm animals; the animals on the farm include Sheep, dogs, cattle and poultry. The position of the nursery is safe and secure from the farm buildings, sheds and fields.

At times, the sheep will be in the field adjacent to our outdoor space. However, the fence will be suitable and secure. The children will never be in close contact of the cattle as the sheds and fields are in another farm steading.

The working farm dogs stay in secure kennels and will be unable to access the nursery.

- A full risk assessment will be in place and followed.
- All gates, fences and areas will be regularly checked to ensure they are secure.
- The farmer and shepherds will have full awareness of the expectations and safety boundaries.
- Depending on the time of year, trips to the farm will be allowed.
- A risk assessment and good communication with the farmer must happen before leaving the secure area.
- The farmer will be updated on the routines and will be aware of times when we will be walking to the woodland areas.
- The children will be discouraged from touching any farm animals, but this may happen, and so hand sanitiser and hand wash must be available at all times.

Visits to the farm:

- Before a visit to the farm a risk assessment is carried out by a staff member – this may take account of safety factors depending on the time of year, therefore a specific assessment must be completed each time as well as the overarching risk assessment.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Staff ratios will be higher.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to the farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.
- All wellies and waterproofs will be washed down after visiting.
- The children must be encouraged not to touch the animals, unless feeding lambs.
- The farmer will be told in advance of a visit to the farm or a walk out of the secure play area.
- Discussions with the farmer must happen prior to a visit to ensure the safety of the children.
- Children must not use any of the transport equipment.
- Children can sit on the transport equipment when switched off.
- All employees and people who live on the farm will be made aware of our safeguarding policy and expectations.

This policy was adopted by _____
On _____
Date to be reviewed _____
Signed on behalf of provider _____
Name of signatory _____
Role of signatory _____