



Ormskirk Church of England Primary School

Greetby Hill, Ormskirk. Lancashire L39 2DP

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Ormskirk C Of E Primary School – School Pet Policy.

Purpose

To ensure that Ormskirk C OF E Primary school complies with legislation relating to the responsible care and welfare of school pets.

Guidelines

- To ensure our school pets are well cared for and our school children and staff enjoy the learning experiences and calming effects they can have in our environments.
- School adults to oversee the care and welfare of animals to make sure their nutritional needs, welfare, living environment and general care needs are met.
- Treat animals with respect and consideration. Care must be maintained daily, throughout holidays and weekends.
- Take care to prevent the spread of disease by practicing good hygiene and minimal handling of certain school pets depending on the nature of the animal.
- Seek written consent from parents/carers for pupils to be involved in the care of school pets.
- Maintain any veterinary records of animal care or needs.
- Any parent/carer who has a child who is allergic or afraid of certain animals must contact and inform school so that staff can put a safe plan in place and reassure the child that no harm will come to them.

Implementation

Ormskirk Church Of England Primary school supports the integration of pets into school and classroom. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and ownership of duties and projects, research and provide daily care, feeding and walking of school pets. Comfort from animals can help settle children and it is recognised that many pupils enjoy having school animals and benefit from a wealth of opportunities created by the animals being within the school environment.

- Classroom animals such as pebbles our school dog can provide much joy and comfort to our pupils; she allows children to gain first hand experiences of the life of a familiar animal.
- Class or school staff who wish to introduce a living animal into school life/classroom must provide a comprehensive plan to the head teacher/governors which demonstrates reason and considerations, knowledge and experience of care or the willingness to gain advise from experts of the specific care needs / training requirements of the specific animal. Feeding, cleaning, financial costings, time/labour burdens of those needed to care for the animals through weekend and holidays, vet care etc.
- Whilst pupils take day to day care of classroom or school pets such as feeding duty, walking pebbles, grooming, play etc an adult must accept overall responsibility for each animal.

Current responsibility -

Dog – Giles Storch/ Liz Bull
Guinea pig – Claire reeves
Tortoises- Tracy Comerford
Fish-
Stick insects-

- School must financially accept and support the costs of the animals and provide all the essentials that they need to live healthily and happily.
- There must be a viable long-term plan for any animal brought into school/ classroom.
- Staff to have an emergency procedure if an animal bites, nips, gets dropped or injured or escapes so that children are safe and cared for or children do not overreact and endanger the health and life of the animal involved.
- Care plans/guidebooks/research and display boards must be provided and updated to share information and care details or changes in diets so that all staff can have a general awareness should the main adult be unwell or away from school, someone else must take responsibility and try to provide the same level of care.
- Pets and animals age, become unwell and will at some point die. This can have a profound effect on some children and adults and empathy must be shared with those who have taken responsibility for the school animals. Much time will have been shared and a sense of great fondness built. The death of a school pet will need to be managed in a caring age-appropriate discussion with pupils to help them understand the highs and lows but natural life cycles of living animals.

Review date

17/5/2022

Approved by

Next review date



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