

**2.8 Care of Animals Policy**

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, 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 on visits. Shoreham Pre-School aims to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Shoreham Pre-School do not have any ‘Animals as Pets’ in the preschool but we do actively encourage education with regular visits from visitors and the local vets, which the children both enjoy and find educational.

Procedures

Animals in the setting; If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner and permission must be sought from the manager prior to bringing them in. 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. Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals. Animals visiting the preschool are free from disease, safe to be with children and do not pose a health risk. All children are taught hygiene and safety procedures when handling animals. Any allergies are taken into account and appropriate measures put in place.

Any creatures kept at pre-school such as caterpillars and stick-insects are kept humanely, cleaned out and fed regularly to ensure their health is maintained. Children are encouraged to help with these routines as part of their learning. Their care over the weekends and during holidays is managed carefully.

Dogs are not permitted on the preschool premises or on the carpark in line with Swiss Gardens’ Primary School policy. Exceptions are for guide dogs but a risk assessment would be carried out with the dog’s owner to determine the safest way for entry and exit from the preschool.