



## **Animals in nursery policy**

There may be occasions when activities are planned in the Nursery which involve animals or children bringing pets from home. In advance of such an activity, a Risk Assessment will be completed.

If a child or staff member brings a pet from home to visit the Nursery as a planned activity, parents/carers of all children who will be in contact or in the same playrooms must be informed. Allergies to pets should be noted on a child's Nursery Registration Form and these will be checked by the Nursery Manager prior to any animal visits/activities. Risk assessments shall be completed for all animals either kept in Nursery or visiting Nursery.

Pets coming from the homes of Nursery children should be 'child friendly' and should have all relevant vaccinations. We would ask that proof of vaccinations are provided, if relevant. Animals or pets should not be allowed near food, dishes, worktops, or food preparation areas, nor should they be allowed to roam free within the Nursery.

In advance of children handling animals, staff will explain the importance of hygiene and health and safety practices. During activities with animals, children should be discouraged from putting their hands in their mouths. Children handling animals must wash their hands with soap and water immediately afterwards.

Where children from the Nursery are visiting locations where animals will be present, e.g., a farm or outdoor centre, a full Risk Assessment will be carried out.

All such visits will be made in accordance with Clyde Nursery Ltd Outings Procedure.

The Risk Assessment will take into account the following requirements:

- The location must be well managed with grounds and public spaces as clean as possible.
- First Aid arrangements must be in place.
- Animals are not permitted at any outdoor eating or picnic areas.
- Children will not be allowed to eat or drink in the vicinity of animals and will be discouraged from putting their hands in their mouths when close to animals because of the risk of infection. This will be explained to the children.
- The location must have suitable toilet and hand washing facilities which are well signposted, and with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers.

In circumstances where this is not possible, hand sanitisers will be available for children to use and hand washing will be done as soon as possible.

- Areas where animals are isolated or near silage will be out of bounds to children.

The children should be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Nor should they eat any unpasteurised produce like milk and cheese. Any foodstuffs produced on the farm and suitable for eating must be thoroughly washed before consumed.

Children should be warned not to touch any material or farm product that carries a risk of infection. If they do touch anything, staff will ensure they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately.

All footwear and clothing will be checked to ensure it is free from any farm product or residue.

A copy of this policy is available to view in the Policy Folders held in the Nursery Office and Nursery Playrooms.

Reviewed: January 2026

Date of next review: January 2027