



Inspiring All to Excellence



Edge Hill Academy

Animals in School Policy

Document Control

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Section	Changes made

Introduction:

Studies show that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare. Some of the benefits have been identified as follows:

Animals in school have been found to:

- Motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals
- Encourage a respect and reverence for life in pupils and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers
- Foster a sense of responsibility in children
- Provide environmental awareness
- Teach children to nurture and respect life
- Lead to the development of hobbies / careers in animal care
- Improve academic achievement

Animals in school also have social benefits for the school community:

- Enhance the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the pupils
- Encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in school activity in looking after pets including livestock in the School/ Community Farm.
- Help to promote the school as an important nurturing influence in the community

Looking after an animal in school

At Edge Hill Academy, we aim to promote good practice in animal care. Children are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals; they are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision. Children will be taught how to interact gently with our school animals whilst under adult supervision. This will include correct attire for looking after the animals. Pupils are required to wear wellington boots and a change of clothing.

At Edge Hill Academy:

- We have a 2 full time Forest School Practitioners who oversees both the Forest School and the school animals. We currently have Pygmy Goats, ducks and chickens. We also have a school dog.
- DEFRA regulations are followed
- Any new animals are well socialised and from a reputable source
- Ensure that each animal enjoys an optimum environment, in social groups, if appropriate. We are aware that keeping same sex animals can lead to breeding and result in welfare problems
- Routine preventive health measures are practiced as advised by the vet

- Animals and their quarters are kept clean and safe at all times
- A high quality, appropriate diet is provided
- Children, staff, visitors always wash hands after handling
- Any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet
- Any dead animals are disposed of in line with DEFRA regulations
- Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made, either with a member of staff, or with parental help.

Risk Assessment and Management of Risk

- Children are always supervised by an adult.
- Children are regularly reminded about risks, rules and safety when interacting with animals
- When Animals are used to enrich and enhance the curriculum each activity or experience is Risk Assessed.
- There are separate Risk Assessments for: Chickens and ducks, WORKING WITH ANIMALS i.e. sheep, goats and rabbits and for the school dog