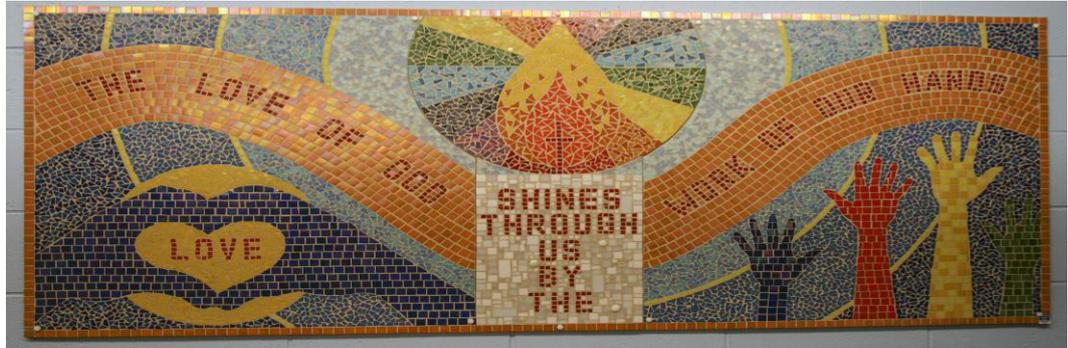




Norley CE Primary School



Animals in School Policy

We are a church school where education is nourished through the teachings of Jesus Christ, enabling each child to fulfil their potential and which reflects our commitment to academic excellence.

We want our children to celebrate and appreciate diversity, fostering qualities that encourage every child to have aspiration for a society in which every individual is cherished.

With our Christian belief at its heart, we work in partnership with each other, families, the church, the local and wider community to create a stimulating and caring environment, where everyone is welcomed, nurtured and empowered.

Christian values directly inspire and influence the children to recognise their self-worth and flourish, enabling them to make the right choices that will continue to shape their lives.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(Matt. 5:14-16)



1. Introduction

Norley CE Primary School recognises that carefully managed contact with animals can enrich pupils' learning experiences, support the curriculum, promote wellbeing, and encourage responsibility, empathy and care for living things.

This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for keeping animals on site and for any visits by animals.

2. Aims

- To ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils, staff, visitors and animals.
 - To provide clear guidance on the safe and appropriate inclusion of animals in the school setting.
 - To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, including the **Animal Welfare Act 2006**, **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**, and relevant **DFE/Local Authority guidance**.
 - To ensure animals are treated ethically, respectfully, and humanely at all times.
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3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Any animal kept on site for educational or pastoral purposes.
 - Any staff, pupil or visitor bringing an animal onto school grounds, including pets.
 - Any external visit involving animals (e.g., farms, mobile zoos).
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4. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Approves all animals kept in school or brought to school.
- Ensures risk assessments are in place and reviewed.
- May withdraw permission at any time if risks are deemed unacceptable.

Staff Members

- Must request permission before bringing/introducing any animal.
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- Must complete and follow a risk assessment.
- Ensure good hygiene practices are followed.
- Ensure the welfare of the animal is prioritised.

Pupils

- Must follow all instructions regarding behaviour around animals.
- Must show care and respect for animals at all times.

Parents/Carers

- Must inform school of any allergies, phobias or concerns regarding animal contact.
 - Must not bring animals onto school premises without explicit permission (including dogs at drop-off/pick-up).
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5. Approval Process

Before an animal can be brought into school:

1. A staff member must submit a request to the Headteacher.
 2. A written **risk assessment** must be completed, addressing:
 - allergies
 - handling risks
 - hygiene
 - supervision
 - welfare needs
 3. Parents must be notified where regular contact may occur.
 4. Consent must be obtained where appropriate.
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6. Animals Kept on Site

Animals kept on site long-term (e.g., fish, small mammals, chickens) must meet the **five welfare needs** (Animal Welfare Act 2006):

1. Suitable environment
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2. Suitable diet
3. Ability to exhibit normal behaviour
4. Housing with/away from other animals as appropriate
5. Protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease

The school must ensure:

- A named adult is responsible daily for feeding, cleaning and monitoring welfare.
 - Weekend and holiday care arrangements are formally agreed.
 - Any animal showing signs of illness is removed from contact with pupils and seen by a vet if required.
 - Veterinary costs are planned for and covered.
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7. Animals Visiting School (e.g., pets, therapy dogs, farm animals)

Requirements:

- Must be pre-approved by the Headteacher.
- Must be up-to-date with vaccinations (where relevant).
- Must be calm, well-behaved and suitable for a school environment.
- Must be brought in an appropriate carrier or on a secure lead.
- Owners must remain responsible and present unless explicitly arranged otherwise.

Additional expectations for dogs:

- Only pre-approved dogs may enter school buildings or grounds.
 - Dogs must be kept on a short lead and under full control at all times.
 - No dogs are permitted on the playground or field during drop-off/pick-up unless part of an approved programme (e.g., reading dog).
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8. Health & Safety and Hygiene

To minimise risk:

- All pupils must wash hands after touching animals or their environments.
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- Eating/drinking during animal handling sessions is prohibited.
 - Cuts or abrasions must be covered before contact.
 - Appropriate PPE must be worn when cleaning enclosures.
 - Animal waste must be disposed of safely and hygienically.
 - Pregnant staff members should avoid direct contact where risks exist (e.g., certain small mammals or livestock).
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9. Allergies, Phobias and Additional Needs

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date list of pupils/staff with allergies or phobias.
 - Provide alternative activities for pupils unable to take part in animal interactions.
 - Avoid placing animals in classrooms where serious allergies are present.
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11. Child Protection

Animals must never be used as a substitute for safeguarding or therapeutic intervention where formal referrals are required.

Any animal used in emotional-wellbeing activities must be part of an agreed programme with trained staff.

12. Emergency Procedures

The school will have procedures for:

- Animal escapes
- Bites or scratches (minor or severe)
- Allergic reactions
- Animal illness or death

Parents will be informed where necessary.



13. Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed **3 yearly** or earlier if:

- Legislation changes
 - A significant incident occurs
 - A new animal is introduced to the school
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14. Linked Policies

- Health & Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions in School

Animals in School Policy	
Review Frequency:	3 years or sooner if considered necessary
Reviewed and approved by:	Local Governance Committee
Date reviewed/approved:	11 th February 2026
Date of next review:	11 th February 2029