



MARTENSCROFT

NURSERY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Title: Pets on School Premises Policy



School Name:	Martenscroft Nursery School
Author:	A.Davenport
Approved by:	Ajai Singh
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PURPOSE

This policy aims to ensure the safe and appropriate inclusion of animals on school premises, balancing educational opportunities with health, safety, and welfare considerations for pupils, staff, and animals.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, volunteers, and visitors who may bring animals onto the school premises, whether for educational purposes or personal reasons (e.g. service animals or show-and-tell events).

POLICY STATEMENT

Animals can play a valuable role in supporting learning, emotional wellbeing, and engagement. However, their presence must not compromise hygiene, health, safety, or the learning environment.

TYPES OF ANIMALS PERMITTED

- **Educational/therapy animals** (e.g. school dogs, fish, guinea pigs) must be approved by the Headteacher.
- **Visiting animals** (e.g. farm visits, animal-assisted therapy) must be risk-assessed and supervised.
- **Service animals** (e.g. guide dogs) are permitted in line with disability access rights.
- **Personal pets** brought for specific lessons (e.g. show-and-tell) must have prior written approval and risk assessment.

APPROVAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- Any animal brought onto the premises must be approved by the Headteacher.
- A risk assessment must be conducted in advance, covering:
 - Allergies and phobias among pupils and staff
 - Hygiene and cleaning procedures
 - Safe animal handling protocols
 - Animal welfare, including access to food, water, and rest

ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE

- Animals kept on site must be properly cared for, with:
 - Clean housing and appropriate food and water
 - Adequate stimulation and exercise (if appropriate)
 - Weekend/holiday care plans
- Pupils may help care for animals under supervision, with appropriate handwashing procedures in place.
- Adequate insurance will be purchased to ensure that all animals receive the appropriate care they need.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Animals must be kept away from food preparation areas.
- All contact with animals should be followed by handwashing.
- Animals known to be aggressive or carrying diseases will not be permitted.
- In the event of bites or scratches, the incident must be recorded and first aid administered.

ALLERGIES AND PHOBIAS

- The school will consult with parents and staff to identify any known allergies or phobias.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made, such as limiting access to certain areas or assigning alternative learning activities.

LIABILITY

The school will not be liable for injury or damage caused by animals brought onto the premises by parents, carers, or visitors. Owners must not bring any animals on to site without the permission of the Headteacher.