8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

People visiting the setting with animals

- Before a visit is arranged we carry out a full risk assessment for the activity.
- We use professionals with adequate knowledge of animals when visits to the setting with animals are arranged.
- We obtain written consent for all children to be allowed to touch and handle animals invited to the setting.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

This policy was adopted by	Springfield Bees Pre-School
On	15/12/25
Date to be reviewed	15/12/26
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Name of signatory	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	