



Animal Health and Safety

May 2024

At Elsworth Pre-School we recognise that pets can help meet the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

If a child brings a pet from home to visit the pre-school as a planned activity, we complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised.

Pets will not be allowed near food, dishes, worktops, or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children. Children will be encouraged to leave any comforter away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

Visits to farms

- If the pre-school plans to visit a new, unfamiliar farm, we will check that the farm is well-managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first aid arrangements are made. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas.
- The farm will be checked for suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area.
- The pre-school will ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, considering the age and stage of development of the children.
- It will be explained to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, including crisps and sweets, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why.
- Suitable precautions will be put in place where appropriate e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.

During the visit

- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, staff will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards and explain why.



- Children will be encouraged to leave comforters either at pre-school, in the transport used or in a bag carried by a member of staff to ensure cross-contamination is limited.
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, staff will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. Staff will always explain why the children need to do this.
- Meals breaks or snacks will be taken well away from the areas where animals are kept, and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Any crops produced on the farm will be thoroughly washed in portable water before consumption.
- Staff will ensure children do not consume unpasteurised produce, e.g. milk or cheese.
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection, and children will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, staff will ensure that children thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately.
- Staff will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash their hands thoroughly before departure.
- Staff will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.

Adopted on:	30 th May 2024
Adopted by:	Sophie Mills, Pre-School Interim Manager Hannah Holland, Chair of Trustees
Next Review Date:	30 th May 2025