



## **Animals in School Policy**

January 2022

Non-statutory policy

Review annually

## **Introduction**

At Treowen Primary School we aim to provide a nurturing and supportive environment in order for children to thrive.

One way of supporting them in this is to have a variety of pets in school to make this a welcoming and calm environment.

## **Rationale for having Pets in School**

Research has shown that pets:

- ✓ Increase empathy and responsibility in children
- ✓ Teach children how to nurture, care and have respect for all life
- ✓ Improve academic achievement by helping children to concentrate and feel calm at school.

## **Impact on the pupils based on research evidence**

- ❖ Decreased isolation and depression.
- ❖ Help to regulate and maintain a sense of calm.
- ❖ Development and improvement of social skills.
- ❖ Lower anxiety and decreased agitation
- ❖ Reduced loneliness.
- ❖ Help pupils access and leave the school calmly.

## **Guidance and Responsibilities**

- The Headteacher will oversee relevant guidance relating to each animal and amend practice in response to changing guidance. The CLEAPPS site will be used to ensure guidance is up to date.
- Risk assessments and care sheets will be provided for each animal by the Headteacher, and this will include an assessment of the suitability of the animal.
- The Headteacher will oversee all animal care and safety throughout the school, but day to day maintenance and feeding will be overseen by the designated class teacher or teaching assistant.
- Animals remain the responsibility of their owner (usually the class teacher) and they will be responsible for buying food and any vets bills incurred, unless the animal has been specifically purchased by the school.
- The named person for each animal will monitor its health and happiness and remove the animal from the school to an identified quiet area if it is needed.
- The health and wellbeing of the animal is our primary concern.

## **5. Health and Safety**

- All parents and carers are given the opportunity to share concerns about their children e.g. allergies/fears, prior to animals being introduced, and risk assessments must address these concerns where relevant.
- Pupil's parents or carers sign a consent form for the school during induction.
- Pictures and information about animals in school will be included in the prospectus and displayed in reception to inform all parent/carers and visitors of the animals in school and where they are located.
- If a pupil or staff member is allergic to a class pet, the pet will be moved to another area of the school.

## **6. Evaluation**

□ Formal and informal feedback from staff and pupils is regularly requested, collected and acted upon.