1.14 Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

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

Procedures

1. ***Animals in the setting as pets***

1.1 There are never any animals in the setting as pets as we are a pack away playgroup

2 ***Animals that are brought in as visitors to the setting e.g Pets at Home visits***

2.1 When animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner, and a risk assessment will be carried out prior to the visit.

2.2 We let parents know that there will be an animal in the setting

2.3 We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature before they are allowed into the setting.

2.4 Suitable housing is provided for the animal or creature by the owner who ensures this is fit for purpose for visiting a playgroup

2.5 Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised at all times.

2.6 Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.

3 ***Visits to farms***

3.1 Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.

3.2 The outings procedure is followed.

3.3 Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

3.4 Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	St Christopher's Playgroup	name of setting
Held on	September 2026	(date)
Date to be reviewed	September 2027	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	KJCookes	
Name of signatory	Karen Cookes	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Manager	