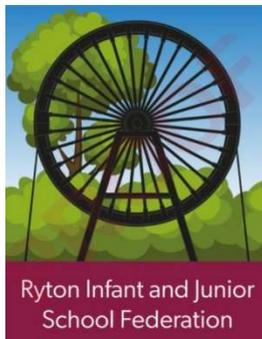


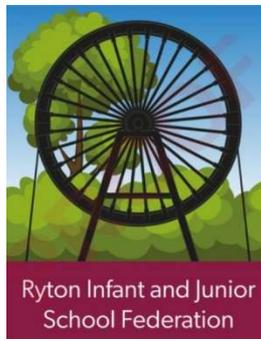
Keeping Animals in School



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Statement of intent

Ryton Federation believes that keeping animals is an effective way of maximising the educational opportunity and attainment of our pupils.

Whilst keeping animals at our school is particularly beneficial to our pupils, we understand that we have a legal duty of care towards any animals we are responsible for, and that this must be a priority at all times. This policy has been created in order to outline the key responsibilities and procedures for pupils and staff when looking after our animals.



1. Legal framework

2. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The Pet Animals Act 1951
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
 - The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
 - The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
 - The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
 - The Animal Welfare Act 2006
3. This policy also has due regard to school policies, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - First Aid Policy

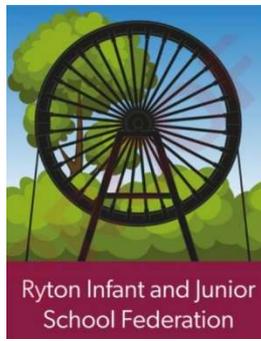
4. Duty of care

- The Animal Welfare Act 2006 places a duty on schools to make provision for the welfare of any animal that they are responsible for.
- Under this Act, the welfare of an animal includes the following criteria:
- Its need for a suitable environment
- Its need for a suitable diet (food and fresh water)
- Its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Its need to be housed with, or away from, any other animals
- Its need to be protected from pain, suffering and disease

4.1. The Executive Headteacher and the designated member of staff responsible for the animals will conduct a risk assessment prior to the arrival of the animals to ensure that all risks are manageable and are controlled.

4.2. Where animals are brought in for a short period – for example, for a day – an appropriate and detailed protocol will be implemented that ensures the wellbeing of the animal, and the health and safety of others, for the duration of its visit.

4.3. This will include the provision of assurances from the owner as to the means of transporting and housing the animal, and the responsibility to bring any equipment, food or water likely to be required during the day. Advice from parents will be sought whenever necessary.



4.4. A named person will be responsible for the welfare and husbandry of the animals at all times.

4.5. Schools that keep a wide variety of animals will ensure a proper care programme is available for each creature, establishing the maintenance of minimum welfare standards.

5. Training for pupils and staff

5.1. All pupils and staff will undergo training on an annual basis to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities when looking after the animals, including: feeding, hygiene, handling and how to spot signs of infestation and disease.

6. Food

6.1. The school will establish a written care programme for each species of animal, which will be implemented by the designated, trained member of staff, and will be communicated to all other members of staff.

6.2. A rota for looking after the animals before, during and after the school day, as well as during holidays and weekends will be drawn up and shared with those staff included

6.3. The type and quantity of food required varies not only with species, but also with age, stage of production (e.g. lactating females have different requirements from other adults) and breed. The dietary requirements of each type of animal must be ascertained by consulting a vet or an expert for that species.