Animals in the Setting and Farm Visits Policy

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, animals and other living creatures as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This may include contact with animals or other living creatures, either within the setting or during visits.

Bradpole Preschool recognises the valuable learning opportunities that animals can provide and aims to ensure that any contact with animals is managed safely and in accordance with appropriate hygiene and welfare practices. We take reasonable steps to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of children, staff, volunteers and animals at all times.

In the event of Animals in the Setting

If animals are brought into the setting by visitors, they remain the responsibility of their owner. The owner is responsible for providing information about the animal and completing any necessary risk assessment, detailing how the animal will be handled and how any safety, welfare or hygiene risks will be managed.
No banned dog breed may be kept or be present on the premises while childcare is being provided, in accordance with current EYFS requirements.

Children are taught how to approach, handle and care for animals safely and respectfully. Animals are supervised at all times when children are present.

Children do not have contact with animal waste, soiled bedding, food preparation areas or cleaning materials. Children and staff wash their hands thoroughly with soap and running water after handling animals, animal equipment or animal food.

Visits to Farms and Animal Settings

Before a visit to a farm or animal setting, a risk assessment is carried out. This may take account of safety information provided by the venue, including the venue's own risk assessments and guidance.
The Outings and Visits Policy and procedures are followed, and children are closely supervised when interacting with animals.

Children are encouraged to follow instructions provided by the farm or venue. They are taught not to put their hands near their mouths or faces while around animals and are discouraged from kissing animals or putting their faces close to them.
Children wash their hands thoroughly with soap and running water after contact with animals, animal enclosures, fences or other surfaces in animal areas, and before eating or drinking. Hand sanitiser and wipes are not used as a substitute for proper handwashing following contact with farm animals.
Eating and drinking only take place in designated areas away from animals.

Outdoor footwear worn during farm visits is cleaned of mud and debris before returning indoors and should not be worn inside the preschool. Pushchair wheels are also checked and cleaned where necessary to prevent contamination being brought into the setting.

Staff follow current public health guidance regarding contact with farm animals and infection control measures.

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Legislation and Guidance

This policy is informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework for Group and School-Based Providers (DfE, September 2026).
- Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance on preventing and controlling infections in children and young people's settings.
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance on avoiding infection on farm visits.

Bradpole Preschool will review this policy regularly to ensure continued compliance with current legislation, statutory guidance and best practice.

Further Guidance

• Health and Safety Executive (HSE) – Information for People Visiting Farms

• UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Guidance on Preventing Infection from Animals During Educational Visits

This policy was adopted at a meeting of: The Committee of Bradpole Preschool

Held during Autumn Term 2026.

Date to be reviewed: Autumn Term 2027