

## Nursery pet policy



The Policy links to: **Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE 2012) Statutory Framework —Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five**

### Value and benefits of pets

We recognise that the provision of pets within the setting provides children with a wealth of learning opportunities regarding what animals need to live and thrive and the importance of taking care of them throughout the year.

The Nursery has two nursery pets: firstly, Bill and Ben two fish and secondly, a dog Tetley (the family pet of the Administrator).

FISH: Bill & Ben live in a tank in the family room. The children take turns to feed the fish and learn about the importance of keeping their tank water fresh and clean.

DOG: Tetley the Dog lives with Janet and has a cage in the administration area of the nursery.

### Health and Hygiene

Staff are fully aware of the importance of health and hygiene when children are in contact with animals

Staff guide and monitor that children do not put their hands near their faces when they have been in contact with pets or pet foods until they have washed their hands.

Staff ALWAYS ensure that ALL children wash their HANDS very well after touching or handling pets or pet food in the nursery.

### Safety

Staff are also aware of safety issues and ensure that children only come into contact with safe pets and are closely supervised at all times.

### Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are carried out when pets visit the nursery to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent accident, injury or the spread of infection, including hand washing using sterilising gel and the avoidance of children putting hands and fingers in their mouths.

### Animal Awareness

The nursery recognises of the value and importance of children seeing and having access to pets and animals we provide access to:

### Visiting Pets

Occasionally pets are invited to visit the nursery to support a topic or theme e.g. The Pet Shop or The Vets to enhance the children's learning with regard to the needs and behaviour of animals - Pet dogs, cats, rabbits etc belonging to nursery families