



Placing children's rights at the heart of all we undertake.
respect integrity humility equality care towards all



Pride in myself; Pride in my work;
Pride in my school; Pride in my community

Glascote Primary Academy

Animals in school policy 2019-2020

At the heart of our School are both the UNICEF Rights Respecting values and articles and Learning Behaviours. Through these, we aim to put children's rights at the heart of our schools. We work together to embed children's rights in our ethos and culture; to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We aspire to give children a sense of pride and achievement in all that they undertake.

Dyslexia: The Fierté Trust recognises the unique contribution of every individual in the school community. It is an inclusive school in which adults and pupils of all abilities and from all cultures and backgrounds are valued. Pupils' wider achievement is encouraged and celebrated and the good progress of all our pupils is of paramount importance as is the safeguarding and wellbeing of all pupils.

Reviewed by: Michelle Powell

Date: November 2019

Approved by:

Date:

Next review due: November 2020

Introduction:

Studies show that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare. Some of the benefits have been identified as follows:

Animals in school have been found to:

- ❖ Motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals
- ❖ Encourage a respect and reverence for life in pupils and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers
- ❖ Foster a sense of responsibility in children
- ❖ Provide environmental awareness
- ❖ Teach children to nurture and respect life
- ❖ Lead to the development of hobbies / careers in animal care
- ❖ Improve academic achievement

Animals in school also have social benefits for the school community:

- ❖ Enhance the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the pupils
- ❖ Encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in school activity in looking after pets including livestock in the School/ Community Farm.
- ❖ Help to promote the school as an important nurturing influence in the community

Looking after an animal in school

At Glascote Academy, we aim to promote good practice in animal care. Children are taught correct procedures in handling and caring for animals; they are encouraged to take a shared responsibility for the care of the animals, under direct supervision. Children will be taught how to interact gently with our school animals whilst under adult supervision. This will include correct attire for looking after the animals. Pupils are required to wear Wellington boots and a change of clothing.

At Glascote Academy we:

- ❖ Have a full time Outdoor Leader who oversees both the Forest and Farm areas
- ❖ Work closely with Rodbaston College and Staffordshire College
- ❖ DEFRA regulations are followed
- ❖ Obtain a variety of young animals who are well socialised and from a reputable source
- ❖ Ensure that each animal enjoys an optimum environment, in social groups, if appropriate. We are aware that keeping same sex animals can lead to breeding and result in welfare problems
- ❖ Routine preventive health measures are practiced as advised by the vet – vaccination, flea prevention and worm control where appropriate
- ❖ Animals and their quarters are kept clean and safe at all times
- ❖ A high quality, appropriate diet is provided
- ❖ Children, staff, visitors always wash hands after handling
- ❖ Any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet
- ❖ Any dead animals are disposed of in line with DEFRA regulations
- ❖ Careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made, either with a member of staff, a pupil's family or the Community Farm.