



**Five
Rivers®**

**FIVE RIVERS
CHILD CARE LTD**

Pets in School Policy & Procedure

'Five Rivers is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment'

Policy Owner	Head Teacher
Authoriser	Head of Education
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1. Policy

1.1 Policy Statement

At FRCC school's provision, we aim to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for children to thrive. One way of supporting them in this is to have a variety of pets onsite at the provision to make it a welcoming, calm, and therapeutic environment.

1.2 Terms and Definitions

- The below table sets out several terms and definitions used within this document:

Term	Definition

1.3 Data Protection

- Five Rivers Child Care supports the objectives of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and other legislation relating to Data Processing, including the Human Rights Act 1998, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Five Rivers Child Care has a statutory obligation to process personal data in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Every member of Five Rivers Child Care has an obligation to ensure that the information they process (use) is collected, maintained, and disclosed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Five Rivers Child Care Data Protection Policy.

1.4 Disclosure of Information

- Any use or disclosure of information held within Five Rivers Child Care, without there being a legitimate purpose or legal basis, will be classed as unauthorised and is a criminal offence under Section 55 of the Act Right of Access (Subject Access Requests).

2. Procedure

2.1 Rationale for having Pets in School

Research has shown that pets can:

- Increase empathy and responsibility in children
- Teach children how to nurture, care and have respect for all life
- Improve academic achievement by helping children to concentrate and feel calm at school.

2.2 Aims

- To provide a safe and secure environment where pupils can develop their communication, social and emotional literacy skills.
- Strengthen pupil's emotional well-being enabling them to access learning more readily.
- Help pupils re-establish good relationships with their peers and adults and see school as a place to feel included.
- Develop the pupil's sense of self, belonging and trust.
- To see an improvement in behaviour, attainment, and attendance of pupils.

2.3 Impact on the pupils

- Decrease isolation and depression.
- Help to feel calm.
- Development and improvement of social skills.
- Lower anxiety and decrease agitation.
- Reduce loneliness.
- Help pupils access and leave the school calmly.

3. Guidance and Responsibilities

- The provision will designate a Lead Pets in School person.
- The Lead Pets in School person will oversee relevant guidance relating to each animal and amend practice in response to changing guidance.
- Risk assessments and care sheets will be provided for each different animals by The Lead Pets in School person.
- The Lead Pets in School person will oversee all animal care and safety throughout the school, but day to day maintenance and feeding will be overseen by the designated class teacher or LSA.
- Animals remain the responsibility of their owner (usually the member of staff) and they will be responsible for buying food and any vets bills incurred.
- Support is always available from the Lead Pets in School person and their number will be given to people with day to day care responsibilities.
- The named person for each animal will monitor its health and happiness and remove the animal from the school to an identified quiet area if it's needed.
- The health and wellbeing of the animal is our primary concern.

4. Health and Safety

- Pupil's parents or carers sign a consent form for animals visiting the provision during induction.
- Any allergies are also highlighted during induction, which should alert us to allergies to other pets.
- Staff have also completed a permission form indicating their wishes for interacting with school animals.
- Pupils and Staff who do not wish to be near animals are made known to all staff members.
- Visitors are informed of pets in the provision and will let office staff know if they are not comfortable around the provision's pets.
- If a pupil or staff are allergic to a school pet, the pet will be moved to another area of the school. Any shared areas will be cleaned before the pupil or staff enter.

5. Evaluation

- Formal and informal feedback from staff and pupils is regularly requested, collected, and acted upon.