



Grange Academy Risk Assessment for Animals in school

Grange Academy keeps animals as rewarding part of our curriculum.

We keep: Pigs, Sheep, Goats, Chickens, Bantams, Pony, Budgies, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Gerbils, Fish Stick Insects, Tortoises and a dog. This policy is based on guidance from the following organisations:

- The Health and Safety Executive The Health and Safety Commission is responsible for health and safety regulation in Great Britain. <http://www.hse.gov.uk>
- CLEAPSS Their services cover health & safety, risk assessments, sources and use of chemicals, living organisms and equipment in schools. <http://www.cleapps.co.uk>
- ROSPA The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is a registered charity providing information, advice, resources and training. <http://www.rosipa.com/safetyeducation/atschool/policy.htm>

Please read in conjunction with our Animals in school policy and Dog Policy.

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to control the risk?	Action Who
Allergies	Pupils and staff may become ill	- Pupils with known allergies are not permitted to carry out potentially risky tasks such as grooming animals, adding bedding to or cleaning the animals. - Pupils are reminded in their hygiene and safety briefing to let a member of staff know if they feel unwell at any point during or after working with the pigs. - When mite dusting animal enclosures, pupils are required to wear dust masks and pupils with known respiratory problems are not permitted to take part in this activity. - A low dust bedding will be used	No, allergy information is regularly updated and staff are vigilant for signs of new allergies and follow our medical policies.	Headteacher to ensure information remains up to date
Injuries	Risk of injury to staff or pupils	- Pupils are briefed on working safely with the animals, including proper animal handling procedure. They are reminded not to push their hands through the bars of the run or feed animals without adult supervision. - Hooved animals feet are trimmed if necessary and nails maintained to avoid scratches. - Pupils are trained in how to approach each animal safely and spot if an animal is in distress/ anxious and know how to back off/ respond. - Pupils are supervised and reminded to be calm to avoid nips and bites. - Any animals that are consistently aggressive towards the children will be re-homed or culled. - The animal enclosures and cages are checked on a regular schedule for maintenance issues. - Lightweight feeders, drinkers and appropriately sized tools are used. - Pupils are briefed on safe tool use. - Pupils are not permitted to ride in wheelbarrows. - Pupils are not permitted to carry heavy items such as bedding bales.	none	Mrs Foster oversees all safety in lessons/ animal contact.

Disease transmitted to humans	Pupils and staff may become ill	• Pupils are given hygiene and safety briefings before working with the animals. They are reminded not to touch their faces or put anything in their mouths while working with the pigs and they are required to wash their hands immediately afterwards. They are reminded not to kiss the animals. • Pupils are not permitted to eat and drink in the animal areas. • All cages are cleaned and washed regularly. • Hand-washing signage is in place to remind anyone who has touched the animals or their housing/ equipment to wash their hands. • Hand gel may be used for immediate visible contamination but additional hand-washing remains compulsory. • Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with the animals. • Pupils are required to wear shoe covers/ wear outdoor shoes/ use a disinfectant mat when entering the pig/ sheep/ goat pen or areas where the animals free range to ensure that droppings are not brought into the building. • Pupils with compromised immune systems are not permitted to work with the pigs or chickens. • The animal cages/ enclosures area is kept suitably clean with the equipment disinfected on a regular schedule. • Pupils are not permitted to play in areas where animal waste is disposed of, for example around compost heaps. • Any ill animals will be removed from pupil contact until healthy. • Any DEFRA guidance will be implemented.	None – all in place	Andrea Foster
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Moldy hay/ straw	Animals or staff/ pupils may become ill	• Bedding will be changed frequently • Staff and pupils will wear suitable overalls, footwear and gloves will cleaning soiled bedding.	Reminders in briefings of safety	Andrea Foster
Disease in animals	Animals may become ill	Regular vaccinations and veterinary checks are scheduled All animals have the best practice in place for food, shelter, water and handling to prevent risk of illness. All animals are monitored daily for well being and veterinary advice sought if needed.	None, all necessary care and medical support is in place.	Andrea Foster
Well being of animals	Illness or distress animals.	Animals are all handled daily All animals have best practice applied for housing, food, handling and care Robust arrangements are in place for animal care during both term time and holidays. All pupils are supervised around animals Animals can be monitored 24/7 via blink cameras.	None, all necessary care and medical support is in place.	Andrea Foster
Dog bites	Injury or death	Glynn has been trained since he was a puppy and has close supervision from Andrea Foster If we have any concerns about the dog's behaviour he will not be on site and will have veterinary assessment All pupils are taught how to approach and stroke Glynn Glynn is given daily non contact and rest time	None, all in place	Andrea Foster
Fear or distress for people	Distress to pupils/ staff	Animal leader is aware of any individuals with fears or phobias and do not force contact with the animals. All pupils and staff are trained to be calm around the animals and can progress at their own pace. If any individual is highly fearful, social stories will be used to support them prior to engaging at a distance when ready.	None, all in place.	SENDCO advice Animal leader

Escape of animals	Risk of injury, distress or death to animals	All cages and enclosures are checked at least weekly for damage, as well as daily ad hoc checks. Any damage is repaired immediately.	Upgraded CCTV now in place and used by key staff.	Paul Rowley, Paul Panter (ICT) and Andrea Foster.
	Risk of injury to pupils or staff	Pupils are supervised around animals to ensure no accidental escapees. Locks are placed on bird cages/ small cages and hutches and on gates to prevent any out of hours trespassers releasing animals. External gates are locked, and Fencing is secure.	Upgraded fence to be installed January 25.	
Lifting and carrying hay, shavings, buckets of feed etc	Risk of injury to pupils or staff	By ensuring minimal distance and amount moved, correct instruction, training and supervision by skilled staff, using appropriate handling aids and protective equipment. Ensure sufficient people are available on delivery days. Clear instructions regarding how to lift and carry all equipment correctly, using work systems which reduce the risk of back injury	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings.	Andrea Foster and LSAs leading sessions
Mucking out, bedding down Maintaining muck heap, Sweeping farm	Tread injuries to feet Bites from hooved animals including pony	By ensuring correct instruction, training and supervision. Pupils and staff will be taught correct procedures and to avoid approaching from behind or startling the animals Pony will be tied for safety as appropriate.	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Andrea Foster and LSAs leading sessions
Kicks or bites from horse/ Sheep/ Goats	Risk of injury to staff or pupils Risk of distress to animals	Protective equipment - gloves, correct footwear. Restricted access to pony to avoid crowding All pupils will be trained how to approach, feed and interact with the pony. Pupils will be taught correct techniques for grooming, tacking up, washing, plaiting (if used) and will be supervised by staff until competent. Pony will be tied up for grooming.	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Andrea Foster and LSAs leading sessions

Veterinary Treatment -Worming - immunisations -poulticing administration of medicines, and disposal of old medicines.	Risk of injury from medications/ sharps Illness of damage to wellbeing of animals	Abide by COSSH regulations (COSHH sheets in vet cabinet) and Personal hygiene rules, Animal lead will always supervise and liaise with vets as needed Use plastic, disposable gloves where possible. Sharps box in medical cabinet. Yellow waste bags for old drugs available, disposal via vets. Sharps will only be used by pupils undertaking level 1 qualifications under the supervision of animal leader. Animal leader will dispose of sharps and old medicine as advice by vet.	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Andrea Foster and LSAs leading sessions
A fire breaks out	Risk of injury or death to staff, pupils and animals	Fire policy and risk assessment up to date Regular fire test, bells checked and alarms checked No padlocks on paddocks so animals can easily be evacuated if needed.	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Rachel Timms, Paul Rowley and Andrea Foster
Vermin – mice and rats	Staff, pupils and animals – risk of disease	Food stuffs stored tidily and securely Regular checks for vermin and humane traps used if needed.	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Rachel Timms, Paul Rowley and Andrea Foster
Slips and trips Adverse weather conditions, muck heap ramp, equipment lying around	Staff, Pupils work experience students	Salt to be put down in icy conditions Bales to be kept at low level height Tools/ equipment to be stored away tidily in tool area when not in use	Regular reminders to staff and students in session briefings	Rachel Timms, Paul Rowley and Andrea Foster

Any visiting groups/ volunteers will be given this RA prior to visiting and will have an age/ needs appropriate safety briefing prior to interacting with the animals. All staff and pupils visiting from external agencies will comply with instructions given by Grange Staff (especially Andrea Foster).

If schools visiting Grange Academy Farm have young children they will be expected to provide their own ratio of staff and provide their own individual pupil risk assessments.