



## Pet Policy

**Reviewed by the Proprietor, September 2018**

## **Introduction**

It is recognized that pets assist children to develop a sense of caring, compassion, responsibility and to learn about the cycle of life. Having a pet children study the lives of animals through firsthand experiences. A class pet builds a strong community among the young caregivers. Classroom pets also provide companionship and build confidence in children. Le Hérisson school supports the integration of appropriate animals and pets into our classrooms.

### **Pets in schools also have social benefits for the school community:**

1. enhance the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the pupils.
2. encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in school activity.
3. help to promote the school as an important nurturing influence in the community.

### **The care and humane treatment of animals:**

Animals within the school will be handled, treated, and cared for in a humane manner. It is the responsibility of the staff member to ensure that the animal has sufficient food, water, and a comfortable environment to reduce the stress for the animal. Habitats must be maintained and cleaned by staff, not students.

The welfare of animals will be maintained always. All pets and animals that visit the school will be treated with respect and consideration and their level of care will be maintained over the weekends and holiday periods.

Teachers will seek written consent from parents/carer's for students to take animals home during the holidays.

Teachers will take care to prevent the spread of diseases by practicing good hygiene with the children and minimal handling of animals.

Classroom teachers are responsible for the welfare of the pet in the case of emergency where the classroom needs to be evacuated.

Classes that have pets will have a well-known emergency procedure if the animal escapes so that children do not over-react and endanger the health of the pet involved.

Pets that die have a profound effect on some children, therefore, the death of a classroom pet will be managed in a caring manner. The death of a classroom pet will be discussed openly with students in a manner consistent with their age and understanding, as a natural part of the life cycle of all living things.

### **Children with medical concerns:**

It is the policy of the school to consider the safety, health and well-being of every child when making decisions regarding the introduction of animals to the classroom. When there is a conflict in this area, the manager will confer with the staff member to find an agreeable solution to the matter in consultation with others, e.g. the parents and child, school, and

others as appropriate. If children have petted an animal, it is essential that they wash their hands after the activity and that this is supervised to ensure that it is thorough

Health issues are considered when assessing the appropriateness of animals in the classroom. Prior to the consideration of the introduction of an animal to the classroom, a review of the medical notes of all the children in the class will be carried out to ensure there is no conflict.

### **Links to the curriculum**

<b>French Curriculum</b>	<b>English Curriculum</b>
Understanding the world: The world	Personal Social and Emotional Development  Communication and Language  Physical Development  Understanding the World

**Review Date : August 2019**