

Pets in School Policy



As a Rights Respecting School Pennard Primary School is a safe and happy place where everyone is valued and where differences are celebrated. We not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships.

At Pennard Primary School, we recognise the positive impact that animals can have on children's development and wellbeing. Research shows that encouraging children to engage with animals can benefit both human and animal welfare. School pets offer a range of educational and social advantages including:

Educational benefits:

School pets have been shown to:

- Stimulate curiosity and motivate learning, as children naturally enjoy and are enthusiastic about animals.
- Encourage respect and appreciation for life, which can positively influence relationships with peers, teachers, and family.
- Foster a sense of responsibility and empathy.
- Teach nurturing behaviours and respect for living beings.
- Inspire interest in animal care, potentially leading to hobbies or future careers.
- Support improvements in academic performance.

Social benefits:

Pets in school can also enhance the wider school community by:

- Creating a warm, welcoming learning environment that promotes a sense of security and belonging.
- Encouraging parental and community involvement in school life.
- Reinforcing the school's role as a nurturing and supportive space within the community.

Looking after a school pet

At Pennard 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 pets whilst under adult supervision.

At Pennard we:

- obtain well socialised young animals from a reputable source
- ensure that each animal enjoys an optimum environment, in social groups if appropriate. We are aware that keeping mixed gender animals can lead to breeding and result in welfare problems
- routine preventive health measures are practised as advised by the vet – vaccination, flea prevention and worm control where appropriate
- pets and their quarters are kept clean and safe at all times
- a high quality, appropriate diet is provided
- children always wash hands after handling
- any sick animals are promptly isolated and examined by a vet
- careful arrangements for holiday and weekend care are made

Risk assessments are in place for all school pets to ensure the safety of pupils, staff, and animals.

REVIEW

This policy was updated in September 2025 and will be reviewed biennially or sooner if legislation and Local Authority guidance changes.

Next Review Date: July 2027

Kerina Hanson (Headteacher)

Signature: *Kerina Hanson*

Ally Demicoli (Chair of Governor's)

Signature: *Ally Demicoli*