**ANIMALS IN THE SETTING POLICY.**

Cowling Preschool ensures that when any animals are brought into the setting it is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

**Policy Statement.**

Children learn about the natural world, it’s animals and other living creatures as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the preschool or during visits. Before any contact, we carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.

**Procedures.**

* We take into account the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet within the setting, and provide suitable housing for the animal, ensuring it is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely, with arrangements for weekend and holiday care.
* We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet health care insurance. We make sure all vaccinations and other health measures, such as deworming are up to date and recorded.
* Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal, and are supervised at all times. They wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding. Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
* If animals are brought in to the preschool by visitors to show to the children they are the responsibility of the owner, and the owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

Visits to Farms.

* Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out – this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm’s own risk assessment which should be viewed.
* The outings procedure is followed.
* Children wash their hands after contact with the animals.
* Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

**This policy was adopted on .………………………………….......**

**Date to be reviewed ...…………………………………….**

**Signed on behalf of the management committee …………………………………………**

**Name of signatory …………………………………………**

**Role of signatory (e.g. Chair/owner) …………………………………………**