

Animals in School

GEORGE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale:

The inclusion of well cared for animals and pets into the curriculum has many benefits for students, but needs to be properly managed to ensure the benefits for the children are complemented by a safe, comfortable and secure environment for the animals involved.

Aims:

- To provide the students with first hand experiences of caring for animals and pets, whilst at the same time, ensuring that the students realise and meet the obligations involved in caring for pets.
- Our school actively encourages the integration of appropriate animals and pets into our classrooms and grounds.
- It is well recognised that caring for animals provide children with companionship, a sense of caring, and develop responsibilities.

Implementation:

- Any class wishing to incorporate a living animal or pet into the school or their room must provide a comprehensive plan to the principal for approval (which demonstrates that the class has appropriately considered essential issues such as feeding, housing, costs, cleaning, vet care, school vacation periods, etc) prior to the introduction of any animal into the room.
- Whilst students may take day to day care of classroom pets, a staff member must accept overall responsibility for each animal
- The school will provide for the feed, water and veterinary needs of animals in its care
- Classes that have pets must 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.
- Guest speakers demonstrating good pet care practices will be welcomed to the school.
- Pets that die have a profound effect on some children. Therefore, the death of classroom pets 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
- The class teacher will maintain records of animal care and use for audit which include details of who was responsible on a daily basis for feed, water, housing, hygiene and other aspects of the animal's care on a daily basis
- Students involved in the care of animals will take care to prevent the spread of disease with hygiene and minimal handling of animals, as instructed by their teacher
- The school will seek written consent from the parents/carers and students to take animals home beyond completion of a teaching unit

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

Aug 2014