Beechoak Farm Montessori Pre-school

Promoting health and hygiene

3.3 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage children learn about the world around them and living creatures. At Beechoak Farm this will include group visits to the animals. Both of these activities are fully supervised and carried out in accordance with strict hygiene and safety controls.

Our animals include chickens, goats, sheep, Shetland ponies and donkeys. Bees are kept to the rear of the premises however the children do not visit this area.

Procedures

- We consider the suitability of each animal before bringing them to Beechoak Farm
- A risk assessment will be carried out by the owner accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- We provide suitable housing for the animals and ensure that it is cleaned out regularly. It is the responsibility of the animal carer or the room leaders to ensure that the animals' houses are maintained.
- We ensure that the correct food is given at the right time.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care.
- We seek advice from the local vet when needed and ensure that vaccinations and de-worming programmes are up to date.
- Children are taught the correct way to approach and handle the animals and are supervised at all times.
- Children wash their hands after contact with the animals and do not have contact with animal faeces, or soiled bedding. Food or dummies are <u>not</u> allowed when visiting the animals.
- Staff wear single use latex free gloves when cleaning/handling soiled animal bedding.
- Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the setting due to infection risks.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner. The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

This policy was adopted by staff at Beechoak Farm Montessori preschool.
Held on 2nd December 2025
Date to be reviewed December 2026
Signed on behalf of Beechoak Farm Montessori by

Charlotte Muggleton & Hayley Majeika
Proprietor Manager