

Pet Policy

At Vineyard Organic Day Nursery, we recognise that pets can help meet the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development. Mikey, our nursery dog will always be up to date with his vaccinations. He will remain in the Head Teacher's office and away from children unless parents have consented to their child stroking him.

Pets from Home

If a child brings in a pet from home to visit Vineyard Organic Nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact with or in the same area as the pet are informed.

We obtain written permission from parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia.

- We will complete a risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised.
- Pets will not be allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas.
- After handling the animals, we ensure hands are washed immediately afterwards using warm water and anti-bacterial soap.
- Children will be encouraged not to place their hands in the animal's mouths during the activity and the teachers will explain the importance of this to the children.
- Members of staff will to be aware of allergies and ensure that any child with an allergy does not have contact with the animal at any time.
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters or dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.
- If a parent/carer arrives at the nursery accompanied with a dog they will be asked to tie the dog up outside the nursery.

Visits to Farms

- Site risk assessment would be made by a senior member of the team.
- We check the farm is well managed, that the grounds are suitable and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first aid arrangements are made.
- We check the farm has suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers.
- We will explain to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why.
- All staff and children will wash their hands before and after touching any animals, eating and drinking.

- Meals will be taken in the designated food eating area at the farm and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground.
- All footwear and clothing must be suitable and prior to leaving the farm the clothing will be free from any faecal materials.
- All children and staff will wash their hands prior to departure from the farm.

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