St Mary’s Primary School

Animals in School Policy
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework and provide directions for when animals are included in activities at school.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Animals in School Policy Framework acknowledges:
- To reduce risk not only to staff and children but also to the animals.
- To encourage an environment of educational and/or social interaction.

POLICY CONTENT

Sound Risk Management put be undertaken at St Mary’s Primary School in the event of animals in the school environment.

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

Implementation

Responsibilities of parents

- Parents are responsible for notifying the school of allergies and phobias that children may have.
- The school needs to be notified when children are intending to bring animals into the school. Three days notice is required.
- Parents need to ‘sign off’ regarding the status of the pet’s vaccination and parasite control on the Risk Assessment

Responsibilities of the school

- Complete a Risk Assessment for the activity
- Obtain insurance information when appropriate.
- Ensure that parents ‘sign off’ regarding the status of the pet’s vaccination and parasite control on the Risk Assessment when bringing pets from home
- Liaise with appropriate adult and ensure only quiet pets are brought to school; large pets (eg horses) will not be allowed unless it can be arranged in an environment where there can be a barrier between animal and child and the physical contact can be closely monitored
- Notify parents in writing of the impending visit and ask for reply in writing specifically about possible allergies to the specific animals.
- Provide staff training in regard to identifying and dealing with allergic reactions.
Staff are to ensure that they are familiar with the Animal Welfare in School. A link to this information is located on the Catholic Schools Office Intranet (Policies)

**Actions during visit**
- Ensure good supervision levels at all times;
- Closely monitor children for ones that are anxious about the animal contact;
- Do not let animals roam while on the premises;
- Monitor the contact of children who are at risk with allergies;
- Monitor children for behaviour that could lead to the animals becoming excited and lead to more unforeseen actions such as biting and scratching;
- Ensure the children do not touch the animals while eating;
- Ensure they do not put their hands in their mouth after touching the animals;
- Ensure they wash their hands thoroughly after the visit and before commencing other activities;
- If the animals urinate or defecate while on the visit, ensure that the area is thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant;

**Stray Animals in the school**
- Children should be instructed not to touch or encourage stray animals.
- Children should be instructed to report sightings of stray animals
- Once a stray has been detected, the school must take appropriate steps to have it removed from the grounds (e.g. ring the Council or Wildlife authorities)

**POLICY REVIEW**

The policy will be reviewed within 12 months of its date of adoption, then periodically and not less frequently than every 3 years from its date of implementation.

**POLICY DATES**

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<th>Formulated</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Adopted</th>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>Next Review Due</td>
<td>2015</td>
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**POLICY AUTHORISATION**

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<tr>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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**RELATED AND SUPPORTING POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS**

- Risk Assessment Policy
- Medication Policy
## Risk Assessment for Animals in School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher in Charge</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of visit</td>
<td>Venue</td>
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<tr>
<td>What kind of animals will be included</td>
<td>Names of Supervisors</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What problems can occur</th>
<th>Proposed control actions</th>
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