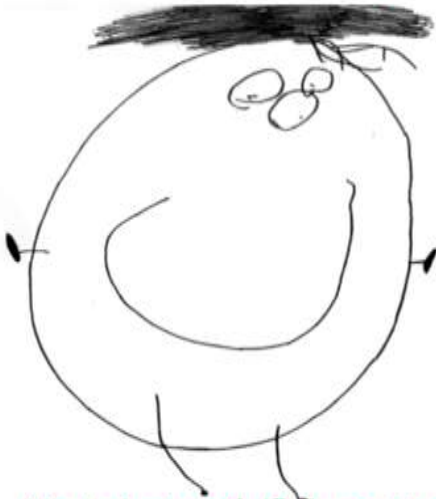


Pinxton Nursery School & Childcare

Pinxton 0-5 Nursery School



Maintained Education

Keeping Chickens in School Policy

Adopted at the meeting of the Full Governing Body on

Minute Number:

Chairs of Governors: Nikki Brownbridge

Record of Policy Amendment/History

Version/Issue	Date	Author	Reason for change
1	12.07.2021	JA	New policy

Rational

We believe that caring for chickens on our school site will provide a wealth of positive learning experiences for all of our children; promoting care and tenderness, offering nurturing experiences, first-hand experience of lifecycles, supporting knowledge of where foodstuffs come from and enriching baking activities.

Risks and Benefits

We have a duty of care to our children, staff, parents and any animal or insect who/which is part of our learning environment.

Children, staff and parents

1. Only people without an allergy to birds will be allowed to have contact with the chickens. Parents will need to give their consent for children to have access to the Chicken Hotel.
2. Children must follow clear hygiene rules to keep safe; all staff and children must wash hands thoroughly after being in contact with the chickens, the use of hand sanitisers is not sufficient.
3. Children must wear 'chicken wellies' to access the Chicken Hotel to prevent chicken poo travelling out of the coop and into school.
4. Staff will model confident handling of the birds to each other and to children. Children will be invited in to look after and care for the chickens when they are confident and familiar with the chicken's habits of pecking and scratching as they look for food.

Chickens

1. The birds will need support to develop bedtime and morning routines; being put to bed in the late afternoon/early evening and woken up and encouraged out of their 'bedroom' in the morning.
2. The birds need feeding 2 x day with constant clean water.
3. The birds will enjoy variety in their diet and climbing/perching places in their environment.
4. The chickens must live in a clean and safe environment; the Chicken Hotel has been designed to give them room to move freely whilst remaining safe from other birds and animals.
5. The chickens will benefit from regular handling and contact with staff and children, in a safe and nurturing manner.

Procedures

- 1. Staff are responsible for checking on the chickens first thing in the morning and last thing in the afternoon. This will include getting up and putting to bed training in the first few months.**
- 2. Until the chickens have a clear getting up and bedtime routine staff need to look after the chickens over the weekend.**
- 3. School staff to liaise with childcare staff to support care of the chickens over the holiday periods. School and childcare are closed for 3 weeks of the year and the Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that provision has been made for the welfare of the chickens during these periods.**
- 4. Staff and children must wear 'chicken wellies' to go into the coup. These must stay in a lidded box when not in use and be regularly washed.**
- 5. Children will be supported to take care of the chickens through devising whole school chicken rules which are displayed and shared in each base.**

