



YSGOL CEFN MAWR  
Keeping Pets in the Classroom Policy

Ysgol Cefn Mawr recognises that the presence of animals in our school can provide a valuable learning experience but animals cannot be allowed to endanger student safety or disrupt learning.

The Wellbeing and care of the animal should also be in line to ensure the best possible conditions for the animal.

**This summary details the basic health and safety issues associated with handling and keeping animals in our school.**

If animals will be handled, the most important issue is the maintenance of good hygiene.

When handling animals:

- Do not consume food or drink
- Cover open cuts or abrasions on the exposed skin of hands and arms with waterproof adhesive dressing
- Wash hands with soap and water before and directly after handling animals
- Keep animals away from the face
- Handling small animals should always be carried out over a table or trough with a soft material such as sand/soil.
- Diseases, parasites and allergies - the likelihood of diseases being passed on from pet animals is low. However, allergic reactions cannot be discounted. Teachers should watch for the development of allergic reactions in pupils who come into contact with the animals
- Children known to have allergic reactions to specific animals must, of course, have restricted access to those that may trigger a response. In most cases, an allergic reaction will subside once the animal and the affected person are kept apart; in extreme cases, seek medical advice
- Salmonella bacteria may be carried by reptiles; good hygiene is again required, especially if aquatic reptiles, such as terrapins, are kept. Good general hygiene and hand washing are essential for risk reduction.
- Children under five should not have contact with such reptiles or the environment in which the reptiles live or exercise
- Animals will be kept in clean conditions and their living environment will be cleaned regularly and cages/tanks will be cleaned as regularly as normal during holiday times. This is clearly important, both for the health of the animals and for those people looking after them. Hands should be washed before and, of

course, after cleaning cages, tanks, etc. Rubber or plastic gloves should preferably be worn. *The class teacher is the only person who will clean out the tank.*

- Holiday times - the class teacher will take care of the pet during holiday times.

This policy was reviewed by Sarah Ellis and adopted by the Wellbeing Safeguarding Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Wellbeing Safeguarding  
Committee

Review date: March 2025