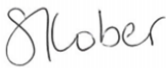





Lumen Learning Trust

Learning together for a brighter future

Animals in the Learning Environment

DATE APPROVED BY LUMEN LEARNING TRUST	15 th March 2019		
REVIEW DATE Biennial	15 th March 2021		
SIGNED DEPUTY EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL	Sarah Kober 	DATE	15 th March 2019
SIGNED CHAIR OF DIRECTORS	Ray Vango 	DATE	15 th March 2019

Lumen Learning Trust puts the children's needs at the heart of its provision. Our whole school community is committed to enabling the children to become successful lifelong learners and happy, fulfilled adults who can make positive choices about their future.

Considerations

Before having an animal within the setting (as a classroom pet or for visitation purposes), certain considerations must be taken into account:

- Children may have allergies. (Animals, food and bedding).
- Any immune compromised pupils may be more susceptible to illnesses.
- Where pupils have fears or phobias about particular animals, these should be respected and appropriate arrangements put in place.
- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to provide parents and guardians with information about the classroom pet, the purpose of acquiring the animal (how its care will fit into the curriculum), and a plan for how any injuries (bites, scratches) will be managed should they arise.

Responsibilities

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that all of the animal's physical and psychological needs are met.

The class teacher should:

- Research the animal's species and consult reliable sources (veterinarian, humane educator) regarding appropriate diet, housing, exercise, and socialisation.
- Ensure that the animal is fed appropriately, handled properly, and that its habitat is cleaned regularly; using logs to track feeding and cleaning is recommended.
- Seek regular and emergency veterinary care for the animal (including vaccinations) and is responsible for all veterinary fees.
- Take the animal home during weekends and holidays.
- Continue to care for the animal at home in the event that a future student is allergic and the animal is unable to live in the classroom.

Suitability

- Only domestic animals may be kept as pets.
- Animals must be diurnal (active during the day).
- Whenever possible, the pet should be acquired through an adoption centre, rescue, or other re-homing opportunity.
- Examples of appropriate species include: Guinea Pigs, Gerbils, Domestic Rats, Domestic Mice, Fish.
- Inappropriate species include: Hamsters and rabbits, wild animals may not be kept as pets (this includes locally caught frogs).

General care

- Classroom pets are not permitted to breed; if several animals of the same species are being maintained as classroom pets, males and females should be kept separate at all times.
- The following guidance should be in place when handling animals:
 - Pupils will only handle the animal under direct supervision of an adult
 - Do not consume food or drink
 - Cover any open cuts
 - *Wash hands carefully before and after handling animals*
 - Keep animals away from the face
 - Handling small animals should always be carried out over a small table
- If pupils are given responsibilities for feeding the animal or cleaning the animal's habitat, this will be assigned as a reward not as a punishment, and pupils will be supervised during all interactions. Pupils must wash their hands prior to and after cleaning the animal's habitat.
- Animals will be housed in a quiet area of the classroom away from windows, direct sunlight, heating vents, and drafts.
- The heat in the classroom will be kept within an acceptable range during the night time.
- Animals are not to be sent home with individual pupils without prior discussion with a member of SLT.
- The costs for the general care of the animal lies with the class teacher. Should a pupil damage an aspect of the animal's environment the class teacher should discuss this with a member of SLT.