



## **Pet Policy**

**Policy Created: 17/05/2025**

*This policy is reviewed on an annual basis.*

I would like to make you aware that we do have a pet at the setting.

We have a pet cat called Cairo, a very friendly fluffy thing!

Children can learn a lot from having contact with animals, studies have shown clear links to the development of personal, social and emotional development in teaching children to care for animals.

Caring for animals is a great way to begin to break down barriers and encourage children to engage in conversation, particularly in children who are shy.

The following procedures will be followed to ensure the safety of the children;

- Children will be encouraged to treat all animals with respect, and will be shown how to hold/handle the pet.
- Children will not be forced to touch the pet if they do not want to.
- Children will never be left alone with any pets.
- Children will wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.
- Children will be taught that not all animals are child friendly and that they should always check with the animal's owner before attempting to stroke or handle them.
- Pet food will be stored safely away from the children's reach.
- A high standard of hygiene will be followed, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls of dogs and cats.
- The garden/play areas will be checked every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it.