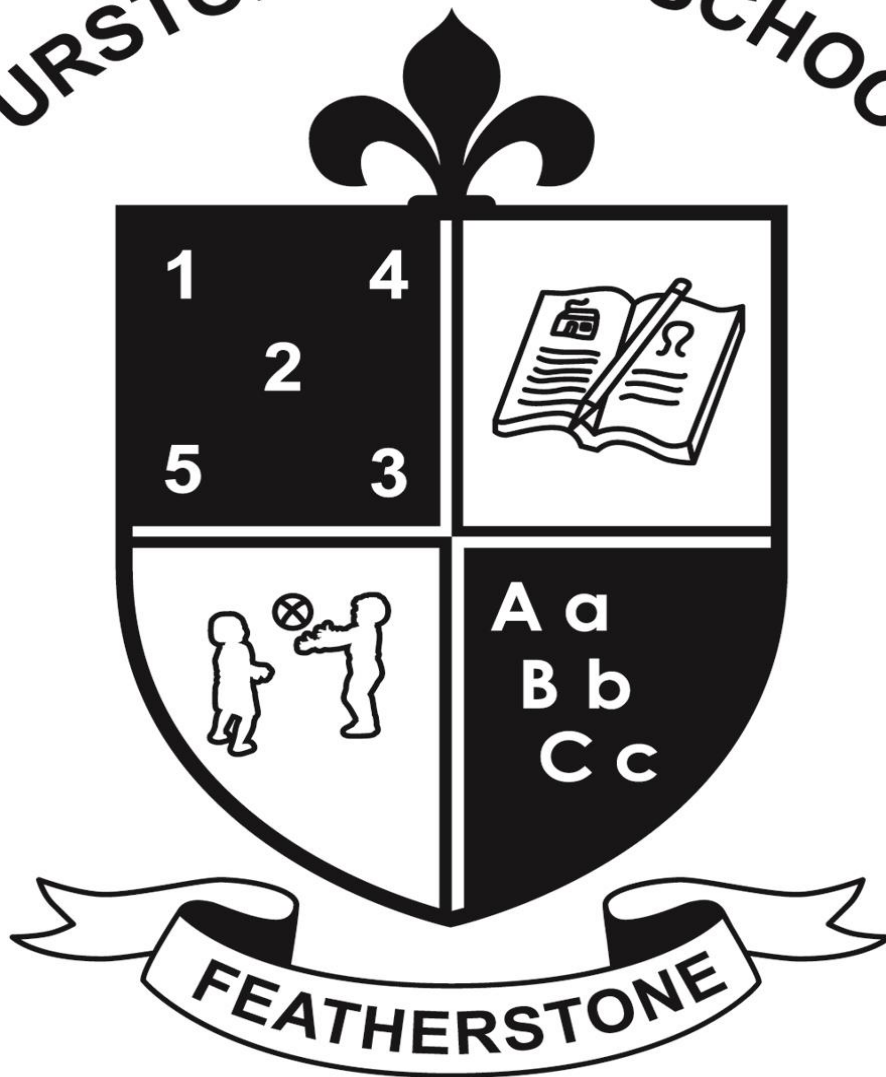


PURSTON INFANT SCHOOL



Pet Policy

Introduction

At Purston Infant School we aim to provide a nurturing and supportive environment in order for children to thrive. One way of supporting them in this is to have a variety of pets in school to make this a welcoming and calm environment.

Rationale for having Pets in School Research has shown that pets can:

- Increase empathy and responsibility in children
- Teach children how to nurture, care and have respect for all life
- Improve academic achievement by helping children to concentrate and feel calm at school.

Aims

We aim to provide a safe and secure environment for our children and by having pets in school this encourages the children to think of the animals and their needs.

Having pets in school emphasises a nurturing environment where everyone is cared for and gives the children a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Impact on the pupils

Having a pet in school we are hoping to:

- Development and improvement the social skills of our children.
- Lower the anxiety that some children suffer.
- Help pupils access and leave the school calmly.

Guidance and Responsibilities

The Lead Pets in School person will oversee relevant guidance relating to each animal and amend practice in response to changing guidance.

Relevant risk assessments and care sheets will be provided for each different animals by The Lead Pets in School person.

The Lead Pets in School person will oversee all animal care and safety throughout the school, but day to day maintenance and feeding will be overseen by the designated class teacher.

Animals remain the responsibility of their owner (usually the class teacher).

The named person for each animal will monitor its health and happiness and remove the animal from the school to an identified quiet area if it's needed.

The health and wellbeing of the animal is our primary concern.

Health and Safety

Before the pets arrive in school parents or carers will sign a consent form for handling and caring of the animal.

Any allergies are also highlighted during induction, which should alert us to allergies to other pets.

Pupils and staff who do not wish to be near the animals are highlighted.

All other animals pictures are displayed on room doors, so visitors do not need to enter if they don't like that pet.

If a pupil or staff are allergic to a class pet, the pet will be moved to another area of the school.

When handling animals:

- Children will not consume food or drink
- Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and directly after handling animals