Edwalton Primary School



Animal Handling Policy

Reviewed and Updated October 2026 by Darren Uveges (Site and Farm Manager)

Next date for review: October 2027

EDWALTON SCHOOL ANIMAL HANDLING POLICY

Animal Welfare

Livestock kept in the school encounter people who may have little or no experience and who may not know how to behave with larger animals. This being understood, the adult responsible for the animals must monitor the stock as carefully and frequently as practical, and at least twice daily (am and pm).

The Five Freedoms

Freedom from Thirst, Hunger and Malnutrition

- All livestock should have fresh, clean and easily accessible drinking water available to them always.
- They should have a nutritionally well-balanced diet available to them, suitable to their type, age, weight and condition.
- The cloven-hoofed animals (goats/sheep/alpacas) should have access for all or part of the year, to areas for grazing/foraging.

Freedom from Discomfort

- All animals should be provided with housing appropriate to its type, size and temperament.
- The housing should be draught proof, waterproof and well ventilated.
- The housing should be kept clean and supplied with appropriate clean bedding.

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

- All livestock should be monitored daily to ensure their state of health and wellbeing and that they are behaving normally.
- If an animal gives cause for concern or is unwell then appropriate treatment should be given or the advice of a vet sought.
- Animals should be examined by a vet if such action is deemed necessary.
- Records should be kept of any medication administered and any animal movement onto or off the farm premises
- Animals should never be put into a position where there is a strong likelihood of harm coming to them.

Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour

- The livestock's environment should enable them to fulfil their normal behavioural needs (e.g. scratching, stretching, dust bathing).
- Wherever possible animals should be kept in groups of two or more, or if it his is not possible, then housed within sight and sound of other animals.

Freedom from Fear and Distress

- All those who have access to the farm, including staff, children and visitors must never enter the pens unless permission given by headmaster or site manager or mishandle the livestock.
- Unnecessary force must NOT be used when handling the animals.
- Invasive animal husbandry tasks (e.g. hoof trimming, injections, shearing, wing clipping) should only be done by a trained member of staff or by a veterinary professional

Health and Safety Issues

Certain diseases carried by animals can also affect humans. Members of staff and children who are in contact with the animals should be made aware of this:

Legal Requirements

- To assess the risks
- To prevent, or where this is not possible to adequately control, exposure to risk
- To inform, train and instruct the school community about the risks and the precautions to be taken.

Precautions to be Taken:

- Everyone involved in working with the animals, or "visiting" them should follow the principles of good hygiene to minimise risk of disease transmission.
- Overalls worn by children on the farm must be washed after use on a 60˚C cycle.
- Outside sink used by those on the farm for hand washing should be cleaned and disinfected at least once a week.

Children working with animals should:

- Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing before going onto the farm
- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing provided and appropriate footwear and **always wear protective gloves**

  Immediately wash in running water any injuries sustained whilst working and report dressing and medical advice to be passed on to parents/carers as necessary the injury immediately to the appropriate adult who will assess the injury and give first aid. All injuries to be covered with a waterproof
- Only use the food scoop that is provided with each feed bin with that specific feed to avoid cross contamination of feed
- When cleaning soiled bedding etc. **always** wear protective gloves (e.g. rubber, plastic)

- Dispose of animal waste and soiled bedding safely, in the compost heap or in sealed plastic sacks which are then placed in the appropriate bins
- Do not enter the building wearing boots or shoes that have been worn for animal work
- Do not eat food intended for the animals.
- Do not feed the animals anything other than their regulated diet
- Place dirty overalls in the laundry basket ready to be washed when finished with.
- Keep the feed shed clean and tidy
- Do not eat or put hands in mouth while on the farm
- Always wash hands after working with, or handling the animals, even when protective gloves have been worn and use the biocidal soap that is provided specifically for animal carers by the outside sink near the front entrance.

Adults working with animals should adhere to all the previous health and safety procedures as well as.

- Undertake any disinfecting that may need to be done, in the summer months to the rabbit hutches and guinea pig cages
- Regularly undertake the disinfecting of the feed scoops to ensure that there is no contamination of feed and that scoops are always attached securely to the appropriate bin
- Ensure that feed is stored in metal bins with secure lids and that extra stored feed is always stored appropriately in the storage shed