Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement:

Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- From time to time Little Acorns may care for small animals, insects or fish within the setting.
- Small animals or creatures may be brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- In all cases Little Acorns and/or owner will carry out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- Children are encouraged to learn about their development and care.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation…A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

This policy was adopted at a meeting held by Little Acorns committee on 31st January 2017.

To be reviewed **January 2018**

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of Signatory **Sue Casselden**

Role of Signatory **Business Manager**