



Date: Jan 2016

Policy on Keeping Poultry in School

Background

The requirement for this policy is underpinned by relevant legislation and Department of Education circulars -

- Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 543 of 2012 Government of Ireland in implementing Directive 2010/63EU of the European Union.
- Animal. Health and Welfare Act, 2013
- Diseases of Animals Act 1966
- Department of Education Circular Letter 32/2015

St. Patrick's N.S. fully recognizes its responsibilities to ensure that the poultry and humans are safe when they come together. Our policy applies to all adults and children in this environment. All procedures in this document are reflective of the requirements outlined in the listed legislation. Our poultry premises are registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and we have a flock number.

Aims

Keeping poultry will enable the pupils to;

- Respect the diversity in farming
- Increase the pupils' hands-on experience and care for animals
- Increase their knowledge of animal husbandry
- Learn about the origins of foods and increase the links to the green schools ethos already embedded in the school

Curriculum Links

Keeping poultry will enhance the diverse curriculum at St. Patrick's N.S. The areas of the curriculum that will be covered are:

Science:

Characteristics of living things, interdependence of living things, growing, nutrition-animal/human needs (how diets differ).

Literacy: Creative and procedural writing.

Numeracy: Maths trails, infants-2nd class basic numeracy skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication), 3rd – 6th class numeracy skills (data handling, break-down of running costs etc.)

S.P.H.E.

Respect for all life, caring for others, personal hygiene and food and nutrition.

Procedures

Everyone involved in working with the animals, or "visiting" them should follow the principles of good hygiene to minimize risk. The following procedures should be followed:

Children working with animals should

- Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing before beginning work.
- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear and the overalls provided and always wear protective gloves.



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- 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.

When Working With Poultry -

- Always wash hands after working with, or handling the animals, even when protective gloves are worn.
- Do not eat while caring for or handling the poultry.
- Only clean hands should be put in mouths or handle food.
- Boots/foot covers must be worn at all times when in the henhouse.
- All footwear is to be stored in the appropriate shed after disinfection.

Animal Welfare

- All poultry will have fresh, clean and easily accessible drinking water available to them at all times.
- They should have a well balanced diet available to them, suitable to their type, age, weight and condition.
- All poultry 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.
- All poultry 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 animal movement on or off school premises.
- The environment of the poultry should enable them to fulfill their normal behavioural needs (e.g. scratching, stretching, dust bathing).
- Wherever possible, poultry should be kept in groups of two or more, or if it is not possible, then housed within sight and sound of other animals.

Health and Safety Issues

- Certain disease 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.
- The school has a contract with a pest control company to control any potential vermin which may be attracted as result of the presence of poultry.

Signed on Behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____



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