



Grampound with Creed CofE School

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are we doing to manage the risk?	Review
Scratches, bites, nips etc.	Guinea Pigs: being dropped Children and Adults: being bitten, skin broken, bleeding	Children taught how to safely hold and look after guinea pigs to limit animals becoming stressed. Adults will ensure that guinea pigs are calm before being picked up. If guinea pigs are being carried from one location to another over a distance, they should be transferred into a small box to ensure their safety. Scratches, bites and nips cannot be avoided altogether. Appropriate first aid precautions and training in place. Children only allowed to handle any animal under staff supervision. Children warned not to put fingers through bars. Guinea pigs will be selected for their calm temperament.	Children are now very well trained in handling the guinea pigs and due to careful handling and monitoring by adults, the risk has been diminished.
Safety and Care of Animals	Guinea Pigs: being harmed, unclean environment, not enough access to food and water	Children to understand high expectations regarding their behaviour around the guinea pigs. LM to check the guinea pigs on a daily basis for signs of stress. Signs of Stress or Illness: weight loss (from weekly weigh in), hair loss, poor appetite, seeming overly nervous, sleeping more than usual, hiding (isolating itself from the other guinea pig and/or the children). Signs of Good Health: agile, clear and bright eyes, clean nose, clean ears, fur is clean and matt-free, nails are a good length, teeth are a good length, feet should not be sore, good appetite, interacting with children and the other guinea pig (squeaks, whistles, popcorning and purring). If any of the following are noticed, a vet will be consulted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any sudden change in behaviour or habits (vocalising more or less, scratching, licking etc.) Any change in eating or drinking (ingesting more or less, refusing favourite foods etc.) 	

	Handling (including allergies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any change in appearance (loss of fur, swollen areas, squinty eyes, flaky skin etc.) Any unusual discharge from the body (runny nose or eyes, odd urine, bleeding etc.) Any change in movement (limping, unwillingness to move etc.) Any change in urination or faeces <p>The guinea pigs will stay in school overnight and on weekends. During school holidays, a member of staff will take them home. A secure and clean cage will ensure that they cannot escape, are not harmed and are healthy.</p> <p>The guinea pigs will be kept in the inner courtyard space, where it is quiet and calm, but will not be isolated from daily life in school.</p> <p>The cage will include enrichments such as places to hide, and things to gnaw to keep their teeth from overgrowing.</p> <p>The guinea pigs will have access to an outdoor, secure run on a daily basis (weather dependent).</p> <p>Children's parents or carers will sign a consent form for the school pets during induction. This will allow parents to indicate whether they give consent for their child to be in contact with the guinea pigs.</p> <p>Any allergies are also highlighted during children's inductions, which should alert us to allergies to pets. Children known to have allergic reactions to specific animals will have restricted access to those that may trigger a response.</p> <p>When handling the guinea pigs, children will be under the direct supervision of an adult.</p> <p>Children will not consume food or drink around the guinea pigs.</p>	<p>During the colder months, the guinea pigs have been brought inside and placed in an indoor cage, in a quiet part of the room.</p> <p>A member of staff had a mild reaction to the guinea pigs when handling them. We have now ensured that this member of staff will not be responsible for overseeing care of the guinea pigs or for supervising pupils with the guinea pigs.</p>
--	--------------------------------	---	---

Guinea Pig Risk Assessment

Date: July 2021

Review Date: January 2022

		Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and directly after handling the guinea pigs.	
Fear	Guinea Pigs: stressed, being dropped Children and Adults: stressed, scared	Children will be given a choice in whether they want to hold the guinea pig. The guinea pigs will be introduced slowly to the children.	The children have established a caring and respectful relationship with the guinea pigs, and are always given the choice as to whether they would like to handle the guinea pigs or support their care.