

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Risk Assessment



Activity: Keeping Guinea Pigs in school	Date: October 2023
Assessment undertaken by: Ruth Hall	Review date: September 2024

Hazards	Who is at risk?	Risk rating	Control measures
Spread of disease	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and pupils are instructed to wash their hands before and after contact. Water and soap for hand washing (bowl of water in outside area) will be made available when the guinea pigs are outside/ in their run. Alcohol antibacterial gel is available for adults and children to use if they so wish use only. Gloves are available for children/ adults to use as recommended when cleaning out the guinea pig cage.
Allergic reactions	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check medical records/ talk to staff/ parents to determine whether staff or pupils have any known allergic reactions to animals, bedding, feed If a child should show signs of an allergic reaction to the guinea pigs then appropriate first aid will be given and the parents will be informed. Children will be given strict instruction to not eat any of the food intended for the guinea pigs.
Bites/ scratches	All -		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach children about responsible animal handling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model how to hold guinea pigs, so that they feel safe and secure and are less likely to bite or scratch. Children told never to harass or chase guinea pigs, they are animals who although enjoy interaction with people, also need space Key staff hold current full Pediatric First Aid qualifications. In the case of bites/ scratched first aid will be administered. e.g. wash all animal bites and scratches and advise parents to seek medical advice if in doubt about the risk of infection
Disposal of waste	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When disposal of bedding and waste, carrier bags are used to collect waste and then put into waste bins Gloves are available for children/ adults to use as recommended when cleaning out the cage Staff and pupils are instructed to wash their hands before and after contact. Water and soap for hand washing will be made available
Infestation / Disease	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate arrangements are in place to clean and disinfect cage at regular intervals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add new shavings to floor as needed Clean and refresh cage twice weekly Children are encouraged to help support the cleaning under direct adult supervision

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone cleaning the cage must wash their hands immediately after using soap and water. • Outside run structure inspected daily by staff for broken wires etc. • Cage inspected during cleaning for defects/ areas needing repair. • Named member of staff is responsible for the welfare of the animals (Ruth Hall), coordinating schedules for weekend and holiday periods
Hazardous substances	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no need to use hazardous substances to clean the cage. Pet safe disinfectant is also safe for use around children and should be used during the regular clean. Although it is non-hazardous – it should still be kept out of children’s reach.
Rodent infestation	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinea pig food, hay, wood shavings etc. must not be left outside in any circumstances. • The main guinea pig hutch will be in the animal run enclosure in the EYFS garden and the guinea pigs put away each evening when the children go home. • Ensure any food is removed from the wire outside run at the end of the day.
Guinea pig health	Guinea pigs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside hutch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A healthy spread of sawdust on the floor of the cage ○ A water bottle (changed each day) ○ Spaces to shelter ○ A bowl of Guinea pig nuggets each morning ○ An afternoon vegetable snack ○ Toys to hide on and nibble on ○ Plenty of hay (grass & hay should form 80%-90% of their diet) • Outside run <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A place to shelter or hide (nest box, wooden arch, tunnels) ○ A water bottle (changed each day) • They also need to use shavings not shredded paper as bedding • Claws need clipping regularly • Frequent grooming with soft brush
Guinea pig care	Guinea Pigs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guinea pigs will be checked on during the weekend when the chickens are fed.

