






St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Risk Assessment



Activity: Keeping Chickens at school	Date: October 2023
Assessment undertaken by: Ruth Hall	Review date: September 2024

Hazards	Who is at risk?	Risk rating	Control measures
Zoonotic diseases	Pupils, staff, visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are given hygiene and safety briefings before working with the birds. They are reminded not to touch their faces or put anything in their mouths while working with the chickens and they are required to wash their hands immediately afterwards. They are reminded not to kiss the chickens. • Pupils are not permitted to eat and drink in the chicken areas. • Hand -washing instructions are in place to remind anyone who has touched the hens or their housing/ equipment to wash their hands. • Hand gel may be used for immediate visible contamination but additional hand -washing remains compulsory. • Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with the birds. • Pupils are required to wear outdoor shoes or blue shoe cover when in chicken enclosure • Pupils with compromised immune systems are not permitted to work with the chickens. • Pupils are not permitted to play in areas where chicken waste is disposed of, for example around compost heaps.
Allergic reactions and respiratory problems Contact with feathers, straw or bedding materials, inhalation of products such as diatomaceous earth	Pupils, staff, visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with known allergies are not permitted to carry out potentially risky tasks such as adding bedding to the hen house. • Pupils are reminded in their hygiene and safety briefing to let a member of staff know if they feel unwell at any point during or after working with the birds. • A low dust bedding will be used for the hen house.

Injuries from the chickens Scratches and pecks	Pupils, staff, visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are briefed on working safely with the hens, including proper animal handling procedure. They are reminded not to hold the chickens in front of their faces or to push their fingers through the bars of the run. • Claws are trimmed if necessary • Husbandry tasks such as claw and wing clipping are carried out by or supervised by Ruth Hall if necessary. • Any birds that are consistently aggressive towards the children will be re-homed or culled.
Injuries from chicken housing and equipment Scratches, cuts, splinters, bruises.	Pupils, Staff, visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chicken house and run are checked on a regular schedule for maintenance issues. • Lightweight feeders, drinkers and appropriately sized tools are used. • Pupils are not permitted to carry heavy items such as bedding bales.
Illness or injury from contact with chicken health care products	Pupils, staff, visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All chicken cleaning and health care products are stored safely in accordance with COSHH regulations. • Pupils only use products under adult supervision • Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with health care products. • Any chicken medications must be mixed and administered and stored with strict supervision by staff. • Pupils are required to wash their hands immediately upon completion of health care task
			<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
Accidents, slips and trips	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate first aid arrangements in place always. First aid box located on Main playground. Emergency procedure in place • Suitable footwear to be worn • Pupils entering the chicken area to be limited to a safe number. Maximum of 6 pupils inside the pen.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The working areas to be kept as clear as trip hazards as possible, for example brooms, hose pipes and shovels will be cleared away immediately after use.
Rodent infestation	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chicken food, hay, wood shavings etc. must not be left outside in any circumstances.• Ensure any food is removed from the wire outside run at the end of the day.

