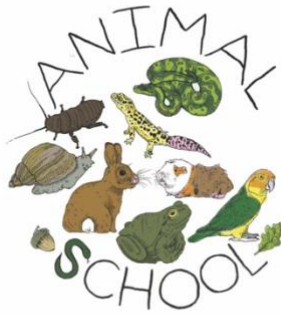


Animal School Exclusion Policy



1. Purpose

To ensure the safety, wellbeing, and positive experience of all children, staff, volunteers, and animals involved in our therapy sessions, this policy outlines the circumstances and procedures under which children may be excluded from participating in animal therapy sessions.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students and volunteers attending therapy sessions at Animal School.

3. Principles

- We aim to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all participants.
- Exclusion will only be used as a last resort when other strategies have failed or in cases of serious incidents.
- Decisions will be made fairly, transparently, and on an individual basis.

4. Reasons for Exclusion

Exclusion may be considered if a student:

- Poses a risk of harm to themselves, other children, staff, volunteers, or animals.
- Exhibits persistent disruptive or unsafe behaviour despite warnings and interventions.
- Fails to follow agreed rules and safety instructions during sessions.
- Causes damage to property or animals intentionally.
- Displays behaviour that is discriminatory, abusive, or violent.

5. Warnings and Second Chances

- Students will normally be given a clear warning and the opportunity to correct their behaviour before any exclusion is considered.
- A second chance will be provided unless the behaviour is dangerous, deliberate, or puts others at risk.
- In cases of dangerous or deliberate actions, immediate exclusion may be necessary without prior warning.

6. Types of Exclusion

- **Temporary Exclusion:** Removal from sessions for a fixed period. The length will depend on the nature and severity of the issue.

- **Permanent Exclusion:** Complete removal from the service when it is deemed unsafe or inappropriate for the child to continue attending.

7. Procedure for Exclusion

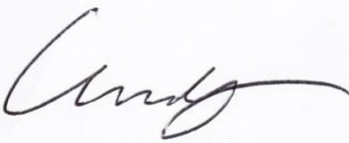
- Staff will document any incidents or concerns.
- The child's parents or guardians will be informed promptly about the incident and the reasons behind the decision to exclude.
- For temporary exclusions, the reasons, length, and conditions for return will be clearly communicated.
- For permanent exclusions, a meeting will be offered to discuss the decision and possible alternative support.
- Where appropriate, advice or referrals may be made to other support services.

8. Appeals

Parents or guardians may appeal an exclusion decision by contacting the Centre Manager or Appeals will be considered fairly and promptly.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective.



Lindsay Cross
Manager
31/07/2025