**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must keep premises and equipment clean and be aware of, and comply with, requirements of health and safety legislation (including hygiene requirements)

**THORNGUMBALD PRESCHOOL**

**8.6 Animals in the setting**

**Policy statement**

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

**Procedures**

*Animals in the setting as pets*

* If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show he children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
* The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

*Visits to farms*

* Before a visit to a farm, a risk assessment is carried out – this may take account of safety factors listed in the farms own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
* The outing procedure is followed.
* Children wash their hands after contact with the animals.
* Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

**Legal framework**

* The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

**Further guidance**

* Health and safety Regulation…A short guide (HSE 2003)

02/09/2021

*This document replaces policy adopted: 19/09/2013*