



Padbury Catholic Primary School

O'Leary Road, Padbury 6025 Telephone 9404 4000 Facsimile 9307 7533
Email: admin@padcath.wa.edu.au Website: www.padcath.wa.edu.au

PET / ANIMAL POLICY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

NQS

QA2

2.3.2

Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

EYLF

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

AIM

Padbury Catholic aims to provide a safe and hygienic environment that minimises the risk of a child being harmed by an animal. We also aim to educate children in the proper care of animals.

IMPLEMENTATION

5.2 Any animal or pet kept at the school will be regularly fed, cleaned, vaccinated, have flea powder applied to them and be regularly checked for fleas and wormed. Any animal in a cage will have its cage cleaned daily. This includes chickens, mice, chicks, rabbits, kittens and guinea pigs.

5.3 Animal or pets will not be allowed in the sand pit or any other play area. In event that this happens, educators will refer to the Sand Pit Policy.

5.4 Animal or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area nor will they be allowed near the eating or sleeping area.

5.5 Anyone who has handled the animal or pet will immediately wash their hands after they have finished handling the animal or pet.

5.6 Children's animal or pets will only be allowed in the school when permission has been granted by the Principal or Assistant Principal. If an animal is brought to the school when families are collecting

children it must be left at the gate far enough way so children cannot touch the animal through the fence.

QA3

3.1.1

Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities and resources are suitable for their purpose.

3.3

The school takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.

3.3.2

Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.

6 School Pets

6.1 Educators, children and families should consider the rationale for having a pet and long term implications of such a decision. Any school pet should have initial and regular ongoing health checks by a vet. This includes chickens.

6.2 Pets help children from a young age to learn to care for other living things. They can teach a sense of responsibility, caring and tolerance. They can offer many opportunities for developing observational skills and basic natural science experiences. If the educators wish to have a pet in the school, they must make all the decisions in consultation with the Principal / Assistant Principal and families.

6.3 Once a school pet has been decided on, the following rules are to be enforced:

- i. Any new pet should be examined by a vet and given appropriate immunisation.
- ii. A pet should not be able to excrete in the children's play areas.
- iii. Pets should be examined on a weekly basis for the presence of parasites.
- iv. The pet's enclosures should be kept clean at all times.

6.4 The following should also be considered before purchasing a pet for the school.

- i. The pet's enclosures should be kept clean at all times.
- ii. Who is responsible for the care of the pet on the weekends and during closure time?
- iii. Possible damage that the pet may cause in the playground.
- iv. Whether there are any potential health risks to children, educators and other staff, especially allergies.
- v. The temperament of different pets and associated costs for maintaining the pet.

Animal Visit

There are situations that may spontaneously occur, involving animals. For example, there may be a situation where an animal or bird has made its way into the school. Educators may use this as a spontaneous learning experience for the children. At all times they will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children.

A professional should monitor the animal's movements to ensure a speedy and efficient capture, but priority is to be given to educator, child and family safety. At no time is the potentially dangerous animal, insect or bird to be approached or touched by educators, children or families.

Pests & Vermin

② Pest control will occur at the School on an annual basis as a minimum.

Educators will monitor any occurrences in the school classroom to determine the success of control measures.

② If pests and vermin are seen, Educators will advise the Assistant Principal or the Grounds person.

② Where appropriate, Educators will discuss with the children safety issues relating to dangerous products, plants, vermin and objects.

② Educators will thoroughly clean all areas that animals or pests have accessed in the School with disinfectant.

② If the remains of an animal or animal faeces have been found, the remains will be disposed of according to the local Council guidelines and the area where the remains were found will be thoroughly disinfected.

② Educators are responsible for assessing any situation in the School where animals are involved to ensure the health, safety and well being of children, families and animals.

7 Animals visiting the Service

7.1 Certain animals, birds and reptiles carry germs that can be passed on to humans, and cause illness. If there are any concerns, contact the local vet or the RSPCA before agreeing to the visit.

7.2 Excursions to visit animals, organised visits by professional groups as incursions or children's pets from home may all be classified as visiting animals. Prior to those visits taking place, the Principal / Assistant Principal may request a copy of veterinary clearance certificate to confirm that the animals are healthy.

8 Wildlife found on School Grounds

8.1 If an animal is found in the grounds of the service these are the contacts available to assist:

<https://nativeanimalrescue.org.au/> for wildlife

<http://www.snakecatcherperth.com.au/snake-catcher-perth.html> specifically for snakes.

Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014)
- . • Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations • ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard. https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-04/QA3_InfoSheetKeepingPetsAndAnimalsInEducationAndCareServices_0.pdf
- Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)
- main/documents/childcare_model_policies.pdf
- Shttps://docs.education.gov.au/node/2632 staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care – 5 th EYLF Document

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