**Pets Policy**

I believe that children can learn a lot from having contact with animals however certain procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of the children:

* Children are encouraged to treat all animals with respect, learning how to handle them correctly.
* Children must wash their hands after any contact with animals and understand the reasoning behind this.
* Children must be taught that not all animals are child friendly and that they should always check with the animal’s owner before attempting to stroke or handle them.
* A high standard of hygiene is followed, with careful thought given to the placing of the feeding and drink bowls of dogs and cats.
* The garden is checked every morning, before the children are permitted outside to play, to ensure that no animal has fouled it.
* Pets are kept off food preparation and serving areas and have their own dishes and serving spoons.
* Pet food dishes and all pet food are kept out of reach of children.
* Pets are very tame and domesticated, are vaccinated and are regularly treated for worms and fleas.
* Pets are not encouraged to sleep on or near childminding items.

Updated 1/3/19