

RISK ASSESSMENT



RISK ASSESSMENT NAME: Therapy Pet

DEPARTMENT: Highfields KS3

ASSESSORS NAME: Vicki Lewis and Megan Rowe

DATE: July 2020

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Current Control Measures?	Further Measures required?	Action by whom?	Action by When?	Complete
Scratches, bites, nips etc.	Guinea pigs being dropped Students and adults being bitten, having skin broken, bleeding etc.	Children and adults taught how to safely hold and look after Guinea Pigs to limit animals becoming stressed. Adults will ensure that Guinea pigs are calm before being picked up. If guinea pigs are being carried from one location to another over a distance they should be transferred into a small box to ensure their safety. Scratches, nips and biting cannot be avoided altogether. Students and adults warned not to put their fingers through the guinea pigs cage and to handle them gently. Appropriate first aid precautions and training in place. VLE designated first aider. Children only allowed to handle any animal under staff supervision and if adults deem it to be suitable.	n/a	n/a	n/a	All actions completed before guinea pigs in school.

		Guinea Pigs were selected for their calm temperament.				
Safety and care of animals	Guinea pigs: being harmed, unclean environment, not enough access to food and water	<p>Children to understand high expectations regarding their behaviour around the guinea pigs.</p> <p>VLE and MRO will check the guinea pigs daily for signs of stress and will lead the cleaning and care (food, water, grooming) of the Guinea Pigs with help of KS3 students. Waste from the cleaning of the cage to be placed in a tied up carrier bag and disposed of in the commercial bins, which are kept in a locked, separate area of the Highfields site. Adults and students will be reminded to wash hands after grooming and cleaning.</p> <p>signs of stress or illness: weight loss (from weekly weigh in), hiding- isolating itself from the other guinea pig and the children, seems overly nervous, sleeping more than normal, hair loss, poor appetite. Signs of good health: agile, clear and bright eyes, clean nose, clean ears, fur is clean and matt free, nails are a good length, feet should not be sore, teeth should a good length, good appetite, interacting with children and the other guinea pig, alert, squeaks, whistles, wheeks, and purring.</p> <p>The Guinea pigs will be registered with a Vet and all inoculations will be kept up to date. If any of the following are noticed a vet will be consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any sudden change in behaviour or habits (e.g. vocalising more or less, scratching, licking etc.) - Any change in eating or drinking (e.g. ingesting either more or less, refusing favourite foods, etc.) 	n/a	n/a	n/a	<i>All actions completed before guinea pigs in school.</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any change in appearance (e.g. loss of fur, swollen areas, squinting eyes, flaky skin etc) - Any unusual discharge from the body (e.g. runny nose or eyes, odd urine, bleeding etc.) - Any change in movement (e.g. limping, unwillingness to move etc.) - Any change in urine or faeces <p>The Guinea Pigs will stay in school overnight. During weekends and school holidays, a member of staff will take them home. This will be on a rota basis with volunteers from the KS3 team. If a member of staff is unable to do this at short notice, MRO and VLE will share this responsibility where needed.</p> <p>A secure and clean cage will ensure that they cannot escape, are not harmed and are healthy. The Guinea Pigs will be kept indoors in the engagement suite, but not isolated from daily life in school. Cage will include enrichments such as places to hide, climb over and places to gnaw to keep teeth from over growing.</p>				
Possible escape	Guinea pigs (becoming stuck, going missing etc)	<p>A secure cage ensures that the Guinea Pigs cannot escape.</p> <p>Doors closed so cannot leave classroom if inside.</p> <p>VLE, MRO and other confident adults to catch if they escape. They are very tame so can just be picked up.</p> <p>Ask students to remain calm and quiet as to not startle the Guinea pig/s.</p>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>All actions completed before guinea pigs in school.</i>
Handling and allergies.	Children or adults	<p>During induction process, make parents aware of the Guinea Pigs on site and allow them change to ask for their child to be removed from activities involving the guinea pig.</p>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>All actions completed before guinea pigs in school.</i>

		<p>Signs on the classroom door to alert visitors that Guinea Pigs is in the room.</p> <p>Checking for allergies during induction meetings.</p> <p>Careful monitoring of children with Asthma – remove Guinea Pigs to another room if appropriate.</p> <p>Children with known allergies to be kept away if needed, check with parents. VLE on sight if an allergic reaction occurs.</p>				
Student behaviour	<p>Staff and students could be injured if students become over excited.</p> <p>If students are (or become) too frustrated they could injure themselves, others, or the guinea pigs.</p>	<p>Students are individually assessed on their suitability to be involved before becoming involved before the activity commences.</p> <p>New staff are given induction in regards to dealing and handling the guinea pigs.</p> <p>Class expectations are displayed and used in the engagement suite in accordance with the Highfields School Behaviour Policy</p> <p>All staff implement clear reward systems very explicitly.</p> <p>All staff take responsibility to deal with student's behaviour during the activity.</p> <p>Young people are supervised – there is a high adult/student ratio.</p> <p>Generally the number of young people in the class is less than 6.</p> <p>Every teacher has access to a 'class file' that holds the student's PDP and risk assessments.</p> <p>Consideration is given to that risk assessment to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate supervision can be given in a group setting whilst dealing with the guinea pigs <input type="checkbox"/> Triggers for behaviours are identified and are acted on. 	n/a	n/a	n/a	<i>All actions completed before guinea pigs in school.</i>

		<input type="checkbox"/> Strategies to manage the student's behaviours are followed All staff are trained in managing challenging behaviour and de-escalation techniques if required.				
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You should review your risk assessment if you think it might no longer be valid, e.g. following an accident in the workplace, or if there are any significant changes to the hazards in your workplace, such as new equipment or work activities.

REVIEW DATE	OFFICER REVIEWING
Termly	Vicki Lewis