



## **ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY**

**No 604**

### **Rationale**

The school recognises that under the Animal Protection Act, 1999 it is required to have a code of ethical conduct relating to the welfare and treatment of any animals under its care.

### **Policy Statement**

This school:

- Encourages through example the proper care of living things within the school.
- Provides experience for children to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
- Ensures that the care and welfare of animals must have the highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
- Educates children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and responsibilities involved.

### **Policy Guidelines**

- "Animal" is defined as any living creature with a backbone, including land-based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles.
- It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms, and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
- If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept in school. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation of the study.
- Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care in school can be guaranteed.

Responsibility for the welfare of animal's rests with the teacher/staff member involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.

The following freedoms apply:

- Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and holidays.
- Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, be ventilated and hygienic.
- Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught, or sunlight.
- Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at school.
- Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.
- Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.

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Ratified by Board: 7 March 2022

Next Review: March 2025

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