



ST THOMAS'S  
SCHOOL

## Animal Welfare Policy

To ensure the code of conduct under the Animal Welfare Act (1999) relating to animal welfare and treatment of any animals under its care are met:

1. To encourage through example the proper care of living things within the school.
2. To provide experience for children to observe, handle and care for a range of animals in a humane way.
3. To ensure 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.
4. To educate children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

### Guidelines

1. The definition of animals under the Act includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, crabs, crayfish, squid and octopus, and also mammalian foetuses, avian or reptilian pre-hatched young in the last half of gestation or development and marsupial pouch young.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must also be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animals should not be kept in school. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
4. 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 animals rests with the teacher/staff member involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees.

The following freedoms apply:

1. Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and holidays.
2. 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
3. Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at school
4. Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear
5. Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.

Ratified by Board

Signed

Date

19/11/21