

## Keeping Chickens in School Risk Assessment

Assessment carried out by Janis Smith		Date: 29/04/2026	Due for Renewal on 29/04/2027			
Hazards	Who is at risk?	Existing Control Measures	Further action required, if any	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Completed
<b>Zoonotic disease</b> Contact with chicken faeces via shoes, housing, equipment and handling the birds.	Pupils; Staff/Supervisors; Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils are given hygiene and safety briefings before working with the birds. They are reminded not to touch their faces or put anything in their mouths while working with the chickens and they are required to wash their hands immediately afterwards. They are reminded not to kiss the chickens.</li> <li>• Pupils are not permitted to eat and drink in the chicken areas.</li> <li>• Hand-washing signage is in place to remind anyone who has touched the hens or their housing/ equipment to wash their hands.</li> <li>• Hand gel may be used for immediate visible contamination but additional hand-washing remains compulsory.</li> <li>• Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with the birds.</li> <li>• Pupils with compromised immune systems are not permitted to work with the chickens.</li> <li>• The chicken house and run/ free ranging area is kept suitably clean with the hen house, perches and equipment disinfected on a regular schedule.</li> <li>• Pupils are not permitted to play in areas where chicken waste is disposed of, for example around compost heaps.</li> </ul>	You may have other further actions that you may wish to add, for example "hand washing signage to be updated" or "pupils to design safety posters to be displayed in the area".	Class teacher/Learning Mentor	Jul-26	Sign and date when completed
<b>Allergic reactions and respiratory problems</b> Contact with feathers, straw or bedding materials, inhalation of products such as diatomaceous earth	Pupils; Staff/Supervisors; Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with known allergies are not permitted to carry out potentially risky tasks such as adding bedding to the hen house.</li> <li>• Pupils are reminded in their hygiene and safety briefing to let a member of staff know if they feel unwell at any point during or after working with the birds.</li> <li>• When mite dusting the house pupils are required to wear dust masks and pupils with known respiratory problems are not permitted to take part in this activity.</li> <li>• A low dust bedding will be used for the hen house.</li> </ul>				
<b>Injuries from the hens</b> Scratches and pecks	Pupils; Staff/Supervisors; Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils are briefed on working safely with the hens, including proper animal handling procedure. They are reminded not to hold the chickens in front of their faces or to push their fingers through the bars of the run.</li> <li>• Claws are trimmed if necessary</li> <li>• Husbandry tasks such as claw and wing clipping are carried out by staff if necessary.</li> <li>• Any birds that are consistently aggressive towards the children will be re-homed or culled.</li> </ul>				

<p><b>Injuries from chicken housing and equipment</b> Scratches, cuts, splinters, bruises.</p>	<p>Pupils; Staff/Supervisors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chicken house and run are checked on a regular schedule for maintenance issues.</li> <li>• Lightweight feeders, drinkers and appropriately sized tools are used.</li> <li>• Pupils are briefed on safe tool use.</li> <li>• Pupils are not permitted to ride in wheelbarrows.</li> <li>• Pupils are not permitted to carry heavy items such as bedding bales.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Illness or injury from contact with chicken health care products</b> Allergic reaction, skin irritation, poisoning</p>	<p>Pupils; Staff/Supervisors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All chicken cleaning and health care products are stored safely in accordance with COSHH regulations.</li> <li>• Pupils are only permitted to use low-risk products such as hen house disinfectant or mite powder, wearing gloves if necessary.</li> <li>• Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with health care products.</li> <li>• Any chicken medications must be mixed and administered and stored with strict supervision by staff.</li> <li>• Pupils are required to wash their hands immediately upon completion of cleaning/ health care tasks</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Accidents</b> Slips and trips</p>	<p>Pupils; Staff/Supervisors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate first aid arrangements in place at all times</li> <li>• Emergency procedure in place</li> <li>• Suitable footwear to be worn</li> <li>• Pupils entering the chicken area to be limited to a safe number</li> <li>• The working areas to be kept as clear as trip hazards as possible, for example brooms, hose pipes and shovels will be cleared away immediately after use.</li> </ul>				