

Risk Benefit Assessment for the following experience: Hoo's Hens

To be read in conjunction with other related risk assessments & policies/procedures. NB: It is accepted that this risk benefit assessment is applicable to everyone attending the programme				
Name of person compiling this risk benefit assessment: Dawn Hamblett, Anya Winters, Leanne Whitehead				
Please state the benefits to the children of offering this experience? To offer a quiet, reflective space where children can connect with and interact with the animals. To support and explore emotional regulation and to create an atmosphere of acceptance. To create a media to explore difference and diversity and explore need on various levels.				
Probability Score: <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely 25% chance that it will occur 50% chance that it will occur 75% chance that it will occur >95% chance that it will occur – very likely		Severity Score 1 – 5 (with 1 being limited concern/ injury & 5 being major concern/ injury)		Calculate the risk levels: The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25. Our company will not be carrying out any activities deemed to have a revised rating of over 12 as they are deemed too dangerous even with control measures in place.
Hazard	Harm	Risk Rating prior to control measures (Probability x Severity =)	Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?	Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)
Zoonotic disease Contact with chicken faeces via shoes, housing, equipment and handling the birds.	Salmonellosis & Campylobacteriosis Avian Influenza Viruses – not currently transmittable to humans, but a risk to the Chickens	4 x 4 = 16	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 use the hand sanitizer in the Quad Area and to wash their hands immediately after leaving the Quad Area. They are reminded not to kiss the chickens. Pupils are not permitted to eat and drink in the chicken Quad Area. Hand-washing signage is in place to remind anyone who has touched the chickens or their housing/ equipment to wash their hands as they leave the area. Please use hand sanitizer for immediate visible contamination but additional hand -washing remains compulsory.	2 x 4 = 8

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			Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with the birds. Pupils will NOT enter the Chicken Run. Disinfectant mats will be placed at all entry points to the Quad Area and changed regularly. This area is where the chickens may free range and these mats are in place to ensure that chicken droppings are not brought into the school buildings. Pupils with compromised immune systems are not permitted to work with the chickens. The chicken house and run/ free ranging area is kept suitably clean with the hen house, perches and equipment disinfected on a regular schedule. Pupils are not permitted to play in areas where chicken waste is disposed of, for example around compost heaps. The flock are registered with DEFRA – number ****. This will alert us to any potential hazards/housing orders.	
Allergic reactions and respiratory problems Contact with feathers, straw or bedding materials, inhalation of products such as diatomaceous earth	Allergic reaction – rashes, swelling, anaphylaxis	3 x 5 = 15	Pupils with known allergies are not permitted to carry out potentially risky tasks such as adding bedding to the hen house. 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 chickens. Pupils will NOT carry out ANY cleaning tasks. A low dust bedding will be used for the chicken house.	2 x 5 = 10
Injuries from the chickens	Scratches and pecks	5 x 3 = 15	Pupils are briefed on working safely with the chickens, including proper animal handling procedure. Handling posters will be placed in the Quad Area. Pupils are reminded not to hold the chickens in front of their faces or to push their fingers through the bars of the house. Claws are trimmed if necessary. Husbandry tasks such as claw and wing clipping are carried out by staff if necessary. Any Chickens that are consistently aggressive towards the children will be re-homed.	3 x 3 = 9
Injuries from chicken housing and equipment	Scratches, cuts, splinters, bruises	4 x 3 = 12	All chicken cleaning and health care products are stored safely in accordance with COSHH regulations. Pupils will NOT use ANY cleaning products.	2 x 3 = 6

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Illness or injury from contact with chicken health care products		4 x 3 = 12	All chicken cleaning and health care products are stored safely in accordance with COSHH regulations. Pupils will NOT use ANY cleaning products.	2 x 3 = 6
Accidents	Slips and trips	4 x 3 = 12	Appropriate first aid arrangements in place always. First aid box located in Quad Area. Emergency procedure in place. Suitable footwear to be worn at all times. Pupils entering the chicken area to be limited to a safe number. No pupils are to enter the chicken run area. Staff are requested to consider the adult to child ratios in relation to the number and cohort of pupils visiting the chickens. 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.	2 x 3 = 6
Chickens suffer poor welfare standards		4 x 4 = 16	Rota of cover to ensure that the birds have access to food, water and suitable space. Cover during the school holidays and weekends is also required. Rota to ensure regular cleaning of coops and disinfection at least once a month, more if required. If restocking flock, ensure that the requirements e.g. access to feeder & water, perching space, nest box room are all still complied with. When introducing other chickens, this ensures that this is as stress free a process as possible.	2 x 4 = 8
Out of date eggs being distributed which could cause potential harm if ingested		4 x 5 = 20	Egg collecting procedure strictly adhered to by all participants. All eggs to be collected and processed on the same day. The Quad Area is covered by appropriate insurance. Any damaged eggs destroyed. Any eggs found on site in an unusual place to be destroyed as age unknown	2 x 5 = 10
Please note – Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre operates under a dynamic risk assessing process which is the continuous process of identifying hazards, assessing risk, acting to eliminate or reduce risk, monitoring and reviewing, in the rapidly changing environment of working with children. Staff are requested to clearly brief their group/class before or upon arrival and to set appropriate standards of behavior in relation to the Health and Safety of the children, adults and chickens.				

Signed:	Position: Head Teacher	Date: September 2022
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