

# St Columba's Catholic School

## ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

### Rationale:

The school recognises that animals and living creatures are kept to provide experiences for students to observe, handle, protect, nurture and care for a range of animals. In any activity involving the keeping of an animal, the care and welfare of animals must have a high priority. The education of students through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved, is paramount.

### Purpose:

1. To encourage all pupils to respect all animals
2. Animals are to be kept in the School only so long as it is necessary for the learning process to take place.

### Guidelines:

1. Exposing students to experiences with living creatures can provide them with valuable learning experiences.
2. Within the school setting students can learn how to care for animals living in an environment different from their natural habitat.
3. It is necessary that care of animals complies with the Code of Ethical conduct for the Care and .. Use of Animals in Schools (1998).
4. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly and returned to their natural habitat on completion of the study.
5. Teachers need to seek prior approval from the principal to keep an animal over a period of time classroom pet.
6. Guidelines for care: a) Animals must have an appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.  
  
b) Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size, and be ventilated and hygienic. Animals must not be subjected to extremes of noise, draught or sunlight.  
c) Animals should be free from injury or disease. Diseased or injured animals should be treated and should not be kept at School.  
d) Animals must be handled and kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.  
e) Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.  
f) Any animal/living creature brought to school must be collected by the family/returned to the natural environment following the observation.
7. Particular attention is necessary for the care of animals over the weekend and holiday periods.
8. Responsibility for the Welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal.
9. Arrangements for appropriate disposal of animals following unscheduled demise, or at the completion of a study, is to be discussed with the principal.

### Conclusion:

Animals will be cared for at St. Columba's School.

Approved by the Board of Trustees 2017

Chairperson: .....