

Keeping chickens in St Veronicas Forest School

Assessment carried out by:	Jessica Fraser-Kelly	Date:	17/06/2025	Due for review on:	17/06/2026
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Hazards	Who is at risk?	Existing Control Measures	Further action required, if any	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Completed
Zoonotic disease Contact with chicken faeces via shoes, housing, equipment and handling the birds.	Pupils Staff/Supervisors Visitors	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. Pupils are not permitted to eat and drink in the chicken areas. Hand-washing signage is in place to remind anyone who has touched the	No further actions required	Jessica Fraser-Kelly	NA	NA

		hens or their housing/ equipment to wash their hands. Hand gel may be used for immediate visible contamination, but additional handwashing remains compulsory. Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with the birds. Pupils with compromised immune systems are not permitted to work with the chickens without parent consent. 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.				
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Allergic reactions and respiratory problems Contact with feathers, straw or bedding materials, inhalation of products such as diatomaceous earth	Pupils Staff/Supervisors Visitors	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 birds. 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. A low dust bedding will be used for the hen house- sawdust and hey	No further action required	Jessica Fraser-Kelly	NA	NA
Injuries from the hens Scratches and pecks	Pupils Staff/Supervisors Visitors	Pupils are briefed on working safely with the hens, including proper animal handling procedures. They are reminded not to hold the chickens in front of their faces or to push their fingers through the bars of the run. Claws are trimmed if necessary	No further action required	Jessica Fraser – Kelly	NA	NA

		Husbandry tasks such as claw and wing clipping are carried out by a professional Any birds that are consistently aggressive towards the children will be re-homed or culled.				
Injuries from chicken housing and equipment Scratches, cuts, splinters, bruises.	Pupil Staff/ Supervisors	The chicken house and run are checked on a regular schedule for maintenance issues. Lightweight feeders, drinkers and appropriately sized tools are used. Pupils are briefed on safe tool use. Pupils are not permitted to ride in wheelbarrows. Pupils are not permitted to carry heavy items such as bedding bales.	No further action required	Jessica Fraser-Kelly	NA	NA
Illness or injury from contact with chicken health care products	Pupils Staff/ Supervisors	All chicken cleaning and health care products are stored away in a locked area that children are not allowed to enter.	No further action required	Jessica Fraser-Kelly	NA	NA

Allergies reaction, skin irritation, poisoning		Pupils are only permitted to use low-risk products such as hen house disinfectants or mite powder, wearing gloves if necessary. Fresh cuts and grazes are covered before working with health care products. Any chicken medications must be mixed and administered and stored with strict supervision by staff. Pupils are required to wash their hands immediately upon completion of cleaning/ health care tasks				
Accidents Slips and trips	Pupils Staff/ Supervisors	Appropriate first aid arrangements in place always – information with forest school handbook and first aid policy Suitable footwear to be worn Pupils entering the chicken area to be limited to a safe number and have been taught how to behave appropriately around 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.				
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