

Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School



This policy is underpinned by our school vision based on the scripture,

*'Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*
Matthew 5:16

Vermin Policy

Date adopted by Governors:	January 2026
Date for policy review:	January 2028
Person responsible for review:	Headteacher
Signed by Chair of Governors	<i>L. Oranally</i>

Vermin is the general term applied to animal and bird species regarded as pests and especially to those associated with diseases.

Certain parts of Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary School, for example, kitchens, can provide ideal conditions for certain pests and vermin. Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary School is committed to providing a safe, clean environment for the children under our care.

The school has a Pest Prevention Contract with Avon Pest Control Ltd, who carry out an annual visit to ensure detection and identification is monitored and recorded, and where necessary, appropriate treatment carried out and proofing recommendations made where required (see Appendix 1).

Procedures

What we already do

- Staff practice high levels of hygiene in all areas
- Food waste bins are provided and emptied into a larger food waste bin daily, which is stored in a storage container.
- Staff clear up any spilt food immediately.
- Wastepaper waste is stored in a separate bin.
- All rubbish and food waste is put out for weekly collection.
- We stop pests getting in with well-fitted doors and covered drains
- All staff look out for the evidence of the presence of pests including droppings, "chew marks" on carpets and wiring, insect droppings and nests;
- Awareness of different types of Vermin and procedure on discovery

Ants

The commonest species of ant is the black garden ant. A highly organised and social insect, a colony will nest and include worker ants which are attracted to sweet food stuffs. Ants may cause contamination to food stuffs and preparation areas. Limited measures can be taken by Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary School staff but professional pest control contractors should be brought in if large numbers of ants' nests are found.

If Ants are found in any area the following procedure must be observed

- 1) quarantine the area
- 2) contact pest control
- 3) ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 4) once pest has been eradicated deep clean the area

Bats

Bats may only be handled by those licensed to do so. They cause no direct harm though their droppings may cause problems with smell and insect infestations. European Bat Lyssavirus (EBL) is a rabies-like virus which infects insectivorous bats in Europe. It is very rare (only six confirmed cases identified in the UK). It rarely crossed the species barrier and since 1977 only four cases have been reported in Europe; all of which were in people working closely with bats. Anyone exposed to EBL but given prompt treatment (immunisation and

immunoglobulin) will not develop the infection. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides protection for all species of bat found in the United Kingdom. It is illegal to kill, or even disturb, bats in their roosts.

If Bats are found in any area the following procedure must be observed

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Call Environmental Health
- 3) Follow their instruction
- 4) Ensure area is deep cleaned before allowing people back into the area

The Bat Conservation Trust, www.bats.org.uk, can be contacted if help is needed to remove injured or dead bats.

Bees, Wasps and Hornets

Honeybees live in colonies often greater than 30,000 in roof and wall cavities and hollow trees. They swarm in early summer. They have a barbed sting and die once used but will sting when provoked. Untreated infestations can cause contamination of foodstuffs, harm to mortar and building fabric and threats of stings.

Some people may experience anaphylactic shock on being stung and will require prompt treatment. If Bees, Wasps or Hornets are found in any area the following procedure must be observed

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE NEST YOURSELF

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Contact Pest Control
- 3) Ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 4) Once pest has been eradicated deep clean the area.

Cockroaches

There are two types of cockroach found in the UK; the Oriental cockroach and the German cockroach. Cockroaches will feed on almost anything from food to faecal matter. They are commonly found in kitchens and heating systems. They prefer warm moist conditions and they reproduce rapidly; a German cockroach can produce up to 240 eggs per month. They can spread bacteria and usually indicate that food preparation areas are not clean.

Germs can be spread from the body of a cockroach or from their droppings. They can carry dysentery, gastro-enteritis, typhoid and food poisoning organisms.

Contamination occurs when the cockroaches meet foodstuffs.

If Cockroaches are found in any area the following procedure must be observed

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Contact Pest control
- 3) Ensure any contaminated food stuffs are professionally disposed of
- 4) Ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 5) Once pest has been eradicated deep clean the area

Mice

“House” mice are considered amongst the most troublesome and economically damaging rodents in the UK. They nest in the ground or in any protected location in nests constructed of shredded fibrous material such as paper. The female produces 5 to 10 litters per year, averaging five per litter.

Mice contaminate foodstuffs with their urine, droppings and hair and amongst the diseases they may transmit to humans are:

- salmonellosis (food poisoning)
- rickettsialpox
- lymphocytic choriomeningitis

Mice also chew cables and wiring, and this can cause short-circuiting and increase fire hazard.

If mice are found in the school, the following procedure must be observed

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Contact Pest Control
- 3) Ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 4) Once pest has been eradicated deep clean the area.

If Mice are observed outside the school, the following procedure must be observed

1. Quarantine the area
2. Contact Environmental health

Pigeons

Descended originally from the Wild Rock Dove (a cliff-face dweller) pigeons have adapted to urban environments and lack natural predators. Pigeons can carry psittacosis which can cause respiratory illnesses and flu-like symptoms, if humans are exposed to infected birds. Local authorities are empowered to control and destroy pigeons if they pose a threat to public health. Other measures can be taken to prevent pigeons nesting such as wires on windowsills and netting across open pathways and courtyards.

If Pigeons are noted to be nesting in the school buildings

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Contact Environmental Health
- 3) Ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 4) Once pest has been eradicated deep clean.

Rats

Common rats live in any situation that provides food, water and shelter. The common rat is the most widespread of its species and is widely found in urban and rural areas. In homes they will live in loft spaces,

wall cavities, cellars or under floorboards. In gardens, they will burrow into compost heaps and grassy banks or under sheds. They are also commonly found living in sewer systems and rivers. Rats will eat or contaminate food intended for humans. It is estimated that up to five per cent of food produced world-wide is lost as a result of rodent activity. Their favourite foods are cereal products, although they will eat almost anything that humans eat. Rats can transmit several diseases to humans including Weil's disease which is a bacterial infection that attacks the kidneys and liver and can be deadly. It can be contracted after swimming in rivers or lakes as it is spread by rat urine found in river water and banks and it can be transmitted through cuts and scratches or the lining of the mouth, throat or eyes, after contact with infected rat urine or contaminated water. Cases of Weil's disease have been increasing in recent years, linked to winter flooding of the rat's habitat, followed by high summer temperatures.

Teachers organising visits to places where there is a risk of transmission from contaminated water need to be aware of this and include it in their risk assessment.

If Rats are noted in the building, the following procedure should be followed

- 1) Quarantine the area
- 2) Contact Pest Control
- 3) Ensure that the surrounding areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- 4) Once pest has been eradicated deep clean the area, if professional cleaning is needed pest control can assist with the current competent cleaner.

If rats are noted outside the building

1. Quarantine the area
2. Contact Environmental health

Foxes

Foxes are increasingly seen in urban and suburban areas as well as rural areas. The fox is primarily carnivorous, and they are highly effective scavengers finding waste in towns and cities plentiful. The law prevents the use of poisons or illegal traps or snares to control foxes and it is illegal to shoot them in urban areas. Foxes can carry toxocarasis, a parasitic roundworm which can be passed to humans. Infection is extremely rare and only affects around two people per million in the UK each year.

Fox faeces may contain bacteria which can cause sickness in humans, so faeces should not be directly handled.

Fox dens are established in January/February for cubs born in March. If a fox den is noted in school grounds

1. Quarantine the area
2. Contact Environmental health