



## Netherhall St James Collective Worship Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2025

This term we are exploring the value of Compassion. This is one of our four core values that were chosen by staff, parents and pupils. In today's collective worship we will be asking the question; What is compassion? Do we just show it to people we know or care about?

*Before we begin let us gather together and light our special candle.*

Leader: "Let us live our vision of."

Response: "Learning together in god's  
Love."



In today's collective worship we are thinking about having compassion for animals.

We share our world with many amazing animals, some are really big ...

Some are really small...



Some we might think are cute...

And some not so cute..



However for Christians, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs and Hindus they were all created by God and therefore are special and should be looked after.



The animals you might come into contact with regularly are most likely your pets.



How can we show them compassion?





# What does a pet need?

The five things all animals need are:



Safe, warm and dry home.



The right food.



Love



Exercise



Medical check up and appointments if needed.



If you are lucky you might see some of these animals that live in the wild in Britain.



How can we look after them?



Don't drop litter, animals can eat it and become poorly and they also might get stuck in it.



You could make a bird feeder, to help birds in the winter.



DIY bird bath

Lots of small animals might need somewhere to stop for a drink, you could leave some water out.



# On a world wide scale, can you cut down on plastic?



# Ways parents and carers can help at home.

## How to teach compassion towards animals to children

Children are intelligent beings who can easily empathize and bond with animals - but, does that mean we have to leave them to their own? No! There is so much as parents, carers, guardians or teachers that we can do to help them develop their compassion and empathy and make sure they understand that animals need love, attention, and to be treated kindly.

### Why is it important for children to develop compassion towards animals?

Multiple studies show that children who exhibit compassion and kindness towards animals lead happier and healthier lives. Positive relationships with animals teaches children about communication, responsibility, empathy, and how to care for other sentient beings.

It's no wonder these are important and necessary skills to become emotionally mindful and intelligent adults. On the other hand, animals benefit from positive relationships, too!

It's in our hands to create a society that celebrates kindness and compassion.

### It all sounds great, but... how can I help my child develop empathy towards animals?

The most significant tip -which will cause the most impact- is **leading by example**. Children are like sponges: they absorb the behavior they see from their peers, especially parents and siblings. So make sure your child sees you actively engaging with animals in a positive way and treating them with kindness (it goes without saying, but do not refer to animals as 'stupid', 'useless', etc. even if you don't mean it!).

Another great way is to **include** your child in grooming your pets, cleaning their litter boxes or manure, feeding them or taking them for a walk. This will help them understand that pets need to be taken care of and are living beings with needs, just like them.

Showing them picture books with animal protagonists, watching TV shows with animals, and even nature programs will also help their development and to learn more about our animal friends. Why don't you take them to a **nature museum** or get them some **illustrated books** from the local library?