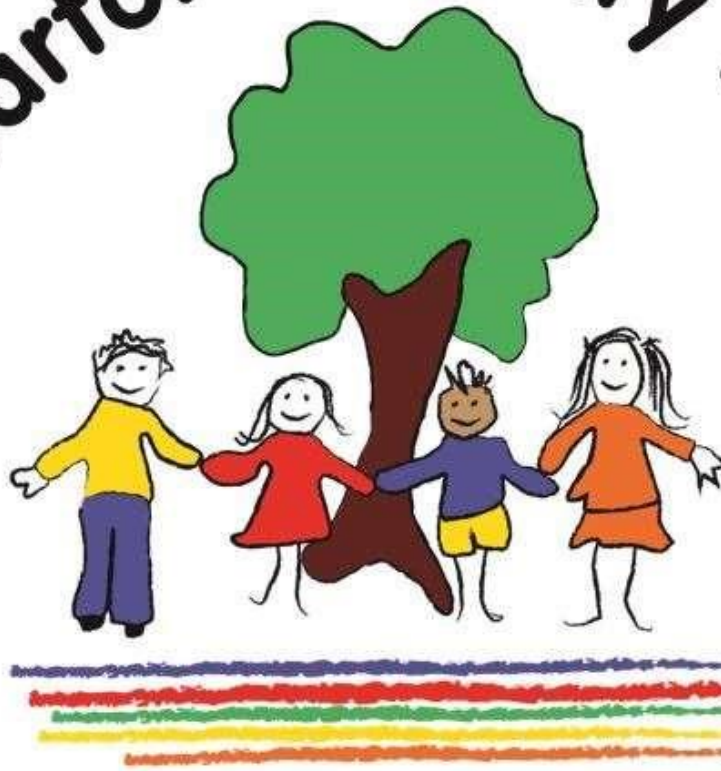


Mulbarton Primary School



Peafowl Policy

Signed by:

Mrs N Hall

Headteacher

Date

May 2026

Mr D Hall

Chair of governors

Date

May 2026

Last updated: May 2026

Statement of intent

Peafowl (peacocks and peahens) from an adjacent property/adjacent properties have been encountered on Mulbarton Primary School grounds on numerous occasions. In response, this policy has been created to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and to enable the swift and satisfactory resolution of disputes involving the owners of stray peafowl.

1. Peafowl and the law

- 1.1. Peafowl are not covered by any UK wildlife protection laws. As a result, they are not classed as a wild bird in the UK.
- 1.2. Peafowls are not listed under the Road Traffic Act; therefore there is no requirement to report traffic incidents involving the birds.
- 1.3. The treatment of peafowl is covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- 1.4. Noise disturbance caused by peafowl is covered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 1.5. Damage caused by peafowl is covered by the Animals Act 1971.

2. Noise disturbance

- 2.1. The LA's Environmental Health service has a statutory duty to investigate complaints about peafowl noise. Incidents of peafowl noise disturbance on Mulbarton Primary School grounds reaching levels uncondusive to learning will be logged by the Headteacher using the Peafowl Incident Log available in [Appendix 1](#). If the volume of incidents becomes unacceptable, the Headteacher will write a letter of complaint to Environmental Health, citing the incidents reported in the log.
- 2.2. Incidents of this nature may only be recorded as noise incidents when the peafowl remain on the owner's land during the disturbance.

3. Damage caused by peafowl

- 3.1. Under the Animals Act 1971, if the peafowl were left unrestrained and damage was caused that could have reasonably been seen as likely to occur, the keeper of the peafowl is liable for the damage.
- 3.2. Incidents involving damage caused by peafowl will be recorded in the Peafowl Incident Log.
- 3.3. Should peafowl damage Mulbarton Primary School property in such a manner as stated in 3.1, the school may choose to pursue legal action against the peafowl's owner to recover any costs incurred.

4. Deterrents

- 4.1. Stray peafowl on Mulbarton Primary School grounds will not be fed or offered water, as such actions encourage peafowl to stay or return.
- 4.2. The caretaker will ensure the timely and thorough removal of peafowl waste, as peafowl 'mark' their territory using their waste.
- 4.3. If incidents reach a level the Headteacher deems unacceptable, the school will consider introducing some or all of the following non-lethal deterrents:
 - Bird netting: This lightweight netting prevents peafowls accessing the area.

- Bird spikes: These prevent peafowl from landing on building ledges and poles.
Taste deterrents: These make any food sources less appetising.
- Visual deterrents: These deterrents, often mimicking large predators, can scare peafowl away.

5. Encountering peafowl

5.1. Pupils will be clearly instructed to act as follows upon encountering peafowl on Mulbarton Primary School grounds:

- Move away from the bird quickly but safely.
- Do not try to approach the bird or scare the bird away.
- Tell an adult immediately and follow their instructions.

5.2. Incidents of peafowl aggression towards pupils, staff or visitors, including attacks, will be recorded in the Peafowl Incident Log, and appropriate action will be taken. Such action may include reporting the birds to South Norfolk District Council.

6. Resolving disputes

6.1. The schools will endeavour to contact the owner of the peafowl following any incident.

6.2. In the first instance, the schools will endeavour to resolve the issue without involvement from outside agencies.

6.3. Should the matter not be resolved to the headteacher's satisfaction, outside involvement and, if necessary, legal action may be considered.

7. Policy review

7.1. This policy is reviewed every two years by the caretaker and the Headteacher.

7.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is May 2026.

Appendix 1- Peafowl Incident Log

Date and time of incident:	Reported by:	Recorded by:	Description of incident:	Was property damaged? (Y/N)	Were pupils or staff placed in danger or harmed? (Y/N)	Recommended actions:

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Date and time of incident:	Reported by:	Recorded by:	Description of incident:	Was property damaged? (Y/N)	Were pupils or staff placed in danger or harmed? (Y/N)	Recommended actions:

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