

Thoughtful Thursdays

St Giles' & St George's CofE Academy - Class based collective worship from Wednesday 11th June 2025
Invitational and inspirational at home discussion prompt followings today's class worship. (If you would like to use it)

TAKEHOME

9th - 15th
June



The **BIG** Question ?

What do animals need to be happy and healthy in zoos?



In the news this week

Zoos, aquariums and safari parks in Great Britain will soon have to follow new rules to help them take better care of animals. These rules say that animals must have bigger and better spaces to live in. The changes will help many different animals, including elephants, stingrays, snowy owls and octopuses. Elephants, in particular, will be given much more room to move around and explore.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you ever visited a zoo? Talk to someone at home about their experience.
- > If you could design the perfect zoo, what would you include to keep the animals happy and healthy?
- > Do you think zoos help people care more about animals and nature? Why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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Below is some of the information that was shared today during class worship - this may help your discussions at home.

ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read through the information below about the changes in zoos and why this is happening.

Why are there new rules for zoos?

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), which is part of the government, said the changes will help protect animals' well-being. It's the first time the rules for how zoos are run have been updated in over 10 years!

The rules are aimed at protecting all zoo animals - those on land, in the sky and under water.



Source: Marck Bailey

What rules are changing for zoos?

The new rules are designed to ensure that all zoos, aquariums, and safari parks in Great Britain are managed with animal welfare as the top priority. Zoos and aquariums will have two years to make the necessary changes.

The key changes are:


- Enclosures for elephants that are more like their natural habitats.
- Banning aquarium pools where visitors are allowed to touch fish and other sea creatures, such as octopuses and rays, because being touched can stress or harm these animals.
- Prohibiting long-term tethering of birds of prey, allowing them more freedom to move.
- Better training for staff working with exotic animals.

Pictured left: An aquarium pool where people are allowed to touch the water and sea creatures. Under the new rules, this will not be allowed.

Share your thoughts on these changes and the impact you think they might have.

Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shows some of the jobs people do in a zoo.



Reflection

Zoo workers care for animals in many ways. Zookeepers feed them, vets help when they're poorly, and cleaners keep the zoo tidy. Together, they work as a team to keep animals healthy and happy.

What do you think each zoo worker will do as part of their job?

What skills or qualities does someone need to work with animals?

Would you like to work at a zoo? Which job would you choose?



Rule of Law

Rules and laws help keep people and animals safe. When we create rules, we can think about the needs of others - especially those who might need more help or protection. Fair rules can make life better for everyone.



UN Rights of the Child



Adults and governments have the responsibility of making choices that protect and support children. In this way, they can model to children how to advocate for others, who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

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BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD