

## YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

# Animal welfare in education

and speak **for and against** the subject being taught in schools

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This brief has been produced as part of the *RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate* and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- Most schools – but not all – must follow the National Curriculum which sets out what students should learn while they are at school. The Curriculum is devolved and produced by the government of each country of the UK.
- Some people and organisations think that animal welfare should be taught in schools.
- Other people think that animal welfare should be taught at home and schools should be prioritising subjects such as maths and science.

### FOR

Here are some points **in favour of** animal welfare being taught in schools – what other points can you find?

- Animal welfare can easily be taught across different subjects as part of a lesson plan.
- Learning about animal welfare can help students learn about empathy towards other people.
- It enables people to make more informed choices when shopping for food and other animal products.

### AGAINST

Here are some reasons why animal welfare **should not** be taught in schools – can you find any more?

- Animals are covered by the law – people should follow this to ensure they look after their animals correctly.
- Schools are for important subjects that have to be taught – animal welfare is for parents at home.
- Teachers are there to teach not impose their own ethics and personal beliefs on students.

### Information you may want to find out

- Is animal cruelty increasing or decreasing?
- What other subjects do students have to learn in school – where could animal welfare fit?
- How many people are aware of the Animal Welfare Act and where can they find information to help them look after their animals?

### Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)
- Political Animal website: [www.politicalanimal.org.uk](http://www.politicalanimal.org.uk)
- RSPCA facts and figures: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- Learning England: [www.gov.uk/browse/education](http://www.gov.uk/browse/education)

