

Dear

At this time of year, some schools embark on hatching projects in efforts to teach children about the life cycles of animals.

We appreciate that teachers are acting with good intentions when they undertake these projects, but Animal Aid, along with charities like the RSPCA and the British Hen Welfare Trust, have serious concerns about these projects and I hope you'll take the time to read through the enclosed information sheet on the subject.

As the sheet explains, the whole process is very distressing for the chicks, puts them at risk of being poorly developed and presents an unnatural picture of how animals are born and raised. Animal sanctuaries are being inundated with unwanted chicks from these projects.

The law firm Advocates for Animals has produced the attached report for Animal Aid setting out the various legal provisions that are engaged when keeping chicks in the classroom. The report found that:

- The legislation creates a positive duty to look after animals properly, not simply a negative one not to cause them harm.
- Chicks have complicated needs that need to be met under the law.
- Everyone responsible for the new-born chicks is obligated to research what those needs are to ensure legal compliance.
- Any breach of the law could impose liability on the school, the individual teacher and/or the pupil.

Please visit animalkind.org.uk/classroom-hatching-projects for more information about the ethical, educational, and legal problems with hatching projects. I hope you will consider using one of the many ethical alternatives that exist.

Yours sincerely,