



Jacqui Blackmore  
Head of School  
Waterside Primary Academy

2 October 2024

Via e-mail: [office@watersideprimaryacademy.org](mailto:office@watersideprimaryacademy.org)

Dear Ms Blackmore:

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). We're writing in regard to the school's recent undertaking of the Pigs in Schools scheme, which was introduced to teach empathy. There's no doubt that your students now realise just how wonderful pigs are, and I'm sure they'd agree that eating their flesh is the ultimate betrayal of these trusting animals. To honour your pupils' porcine pals, we urge you to take pig flesh off the menu at Waterside Primary Academy.

It's desperately sad that most people know more about how pigs taste when they're dead than about who they are when they're alive. As you've now seen firsthand, every pig has a unique personality. Pigs often outperform dogs in learning tests and display loyalty, curiosity, and a desire to live with their families and friends. Mother pigs sing to their babies while they nurse them, and pigs have dreams – just like we do.

Most pigs bred for their flesh are crammed into concrete pens on filthy farms. Because this extreme confinement and frustration can lead to ear- and tail-biting, farmers routinely cut off pigs' tails and grind down their sensitive teeth, usually without painkillers. At just 6 months old, pigs are trucked to slaughterhouses, where they're stunned via electric shock or gassing. Often, stunning is ineffective, and workers slit pigs' throats while they're still conscious.

Aside from being cruelly obtained, the products of pig slaughter are grossly unhealthy. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classes processed meats [like bacon, hotdogs, and ham](#) as grade one carcinogens – alongside smoking and asbestos – and Cancer Research UK warns that eating red or processed meats causes 21% of bowel cancer cases in the UK.

It's just plain weird to encourage children to pet pigs with one hand and eat them with the other. Now that you and your students know more about pigs as individuals, please take these wonderful, playful animals off the menu. PETA would gladly provide delicious vegan sausages and pig-free bacon to help with the transition.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Kindest regards,

Elisa Allen  
Vice President of Programmes

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**Affiliates**

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