



School Therapy Dog policy

Document owner: Miss Hanley

Date Approved	11 th July 2022
Review Date	July 2025
Approved by which committee	Full Governing Body

<i>Admin use only</i>	
Location	
Website	
Learning Platform	
Policies File	
Staff room	
Headteacher's File	
Governor Hub	
Policies Log updated	





Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Legal framework
3. Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?
4. Context
5. Day to day management
6. Curriculum
7. Health and safety principles
8. Covid 19
9. Links with other policies and documents
10. Appendix 1

1. Introduction

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility, and develop empathy and nurturing skills, through contact with a suitable, calm dog.

In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals.

Our school dog is well cared for and responsibly owned by the Pastoral Manager - Miss A Hanley.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to:

- The Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended in 1983)
- The Health and Safety at work Act 1974
- The Animal welfare Act 1974/ 2006
- RSPCA(2012) Guidance for Educational Establishments

3. Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

This policy shows that we have thought carefully about school life with a dog and how, through careful management, there is a very low risk of harm. A Risk Assessment has been undertaken and the school has consulted its Health and Safety Consultant as part of the process.

4. Context

The dog is not owned by the school. The dog is wholly owned by and lives with the Pastoral Manager - Miss A Hanley who is fully responsible for the care and decisions always made with respect to the dog with the oversight of the headteacher Mrs Scott.



The school has Public Liability Insurance via the Local Authority Risk Management and Insurance Services team.

All veterinary costs are covered by 'Pet Plan' under private insurance paid for by Miss Hanley.

All home based essentials that the dog will require - food, bedding, leads/harnesses, cage, treats & toys will be paid for by Miss Hanley. However, the cost of items required that are to be school based will be covered by the school.

All training classes/ courses to enable the dog to be a therapy dog will be paid for by the school. However, Miss Hanley will be required to make such arrangements and will be responsible for taking the dog to and from classes/assessments.

The dog has been chosen for the general characteristics of its breed - a gentle, friendly, placid dog that is especially good with children very sociable and unaggressive.

The risk assessment will be reviewed annually.

Visitor and new pupils will be informed of the dog on arrival.

5. Day-to-day management

The dog will:

- Not be allowed in school if he is unwell
- Be kept on a lead/ harness when moving around the school or on a walk
- Be always under the full control and supervision of an adult
- Will be kept in the 'Wellbeing Office' with a quiet area for resting
- Be fully trained to a cage or mat
- Have had all injections/ worming etc

Our pupils will:

- NOT have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with the dog at any time
- Meet the dog in a group of no more than Four children, following 'approach, ask, pet, goodbye'
- Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog every time they meet him
- Always remain calm
- Be gentle
- Not put their face near the dog's
- Not disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping
- Always approach the dog standing up
- Not feed the dog

The pupils will also learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicates that the dog feels threatened or angry.



Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining, or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog is displaying any of these signs, he should immediately be removed from that situation or environment.

6. Curriculum

The dog will support the curriculum through the following strands:

- Improving pupil behaviour and concentration
- Reducing stress and improving self-esteem
- Having a calming effect on pupils
- Encouraging expression, participation, and confidence in all children
- Fostering a sense of responsibility
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents, and teachers
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life
- Supporting all work undertaken with the most vulnerable children
- Helping overcome a fear of dogs
- Increasing staff morale and wellbeing
- Developing the understanding of unconditional love
- Supporting with the development of cooperative play
- Supporting children to develop empathy
- Further promoting our wellbeing agenda for pupils
- Encouraging enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals
- Helping children build confidence in reading
- Improving attendance.

7. Health and Safety Principles

Children will always wash their hands & use hand sanitiser after handling the dog. Any dog foul will be cleared up immediately and disposed of appropriately by the adult in charge of the dog at the time. Children must never be allowed to do this. Should a bite occur (even playfully):

1. Parents will be contacted immediately
2. The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing
3. The child/adult will be released for medical attention
4. All staff will be informed
5. A full investigation will take place
6. The suitability of having a dog will be reassessed by the Head
7. The incident will be recorded in the Animal Incident log (Appendix 1)

8. Links with other policies and documents

School Therapy Dog Policy



This policy also has due regard to school policies, including, but not limited, the following:

- Health and Safety policy
- First Aid Policy
- Dog Risk Assessment

9. Animal Incident Log (Appendix 1)

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:

School Therapy Dog Policy



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:

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by the Governing Board, and will be reviewed annually.

Signed:

Date:

School Therapy Dog Policy

