



SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Introduction

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog.

Information and Guidance

The dog will be owned by Miss Thompson, Forest School Leader.

The school dog (Arnold) is a Schitzhu cross. She has been chosen for their friendly, people orientated temperament and non-moulting coat.

The governors have agreed for the school to have a dog.

Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will have a dog.

Parents have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school.

A risk assessment has been written exploring potential scenarios that may involve the dog.

Staff, visitors and pupils known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog.

If the dog is ill she will not be allowed into school.

The dog will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an adult.

When left alone, the dog will be in secure area (e.g offices / behind gate). Pupils must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with pupils.

The dog will have a crate. If the dog takes itself to its crate/or is placed in its crate it should be left alone.

Pupils should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Pupils should remain calm around the dog. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog.

Pupils should not put their face near the dog and should always approach it in a way instructed by the supervising adult.

Pupils should never go near or disturb the dog if it is sleeping or eating.

If the dog picks up anything in its mouth, do not attempt to remove it by hand. The supervising Adult should say 'Drop' and offer the dog a treat as an exchange.

Pupils must not be allowed to play too roughly with the dog.

If the dog is surrounded by a large number of pupils, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation.

Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened. 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 warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.

Pupils should not eat close to the dog. Pupils should only feed the dog under the supervision and guidance of an adult. This can be part of the activities of when the children are working with Arnold. This will always be done in a very controlled way, e.g the child / adult would make Arnold sit and Stay, then normally place the treat out of her reach, instructing her to wait until she was told she could eat.

Pupils should always wash their hands after handling the dog and use the lint roller where appropriate.

Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately, with the affected area appropriately disinfected.

Policy adopted by Governing Body on 18/03/2025

To be reviewed on March 2028

Signed by Executive Headteacher J. Williams

Signed by Chair of Governors M. Graham