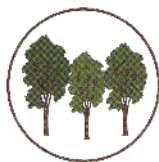


Greenvale Primary School



SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Policy Date	Sept 2021
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs A Allnutt
Review Date	Sept 2022



Greenvale Primary School

School Dog Policy

Policy Owner – Mrs Amanda Allnutt, Head Teacher

Policy Date – Sept 2021

Review Date – Sept 2022

Section 1 - Monitoring

- 1.1 The Head Teacher will monitor the application of this policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.
- 1.2 The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effective application.
- 1.3 This policy is consistent with the schools' General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Policy
- 1.4 Linked Policies
 - General Data Protection (GDPR) Policy

Section 2 – Rationale

- 2.1 Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog.
- 2.2 In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals. By having a dog in school we want to encourage those children specifically who are vulnerable, or those who are less confident with learning to have a friendly audience and to look forward to a challenge. Having a dog in school can encourage reluctant children to come to school
- 2.3 The vast majority of dogs are gentle and loving, offering children opportunities to improve social development skills, unconditional acceptance and the chance to do something really well. For some children, a dog will be a special friend, helping them to build self-esteem, relax and have fun. For others, time spent with a dog will be a reward for excellent effort with a difficult challenge.
- 2.4 Bullying can be a problem in all schools with students anxious about school for fear of taunting and abuse. But in some schools, dogs are making a difference in the fight against bullies. Researchers report that students can identify with animals and with empathy for the dog, can better understand how classmates may feel. It was found that violent behaviour in participating students declined by 55% and general aggression went down 62%

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

- 3.1 The school has thought carefully about school life with a visiting dog and how, through careful management, there is a very low risk of harm.
- 3.2 Every dog entering school must have an individual risk assessment, outlining the risks posed by a specific dog and the actions taken to reduce the risk of harm. For example, some dogs will be 'hypo-allergenic', posing a smaller risk to children with allergies than other dogs; different actions will need to be taken for both.
- 3.3 Parents will always be informed if a dog is visiting the school and will be able to ask for their child's needs, e.g. allergies, phobias, to be considered and appropriate action taken. No child will have physical contact with a dog at school unless they choose to.

Section 4 – Health & Safety Principles

Please see Appendix 1 for Continuous Provision Plan

- 4.1 Children will always wash their hands after handling the dog
- 4.2 Any dog foul will be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by the dog's handler – children must never attempt to do this (a toilet area will be identified that is away from the play areas)
- 4.3 Should a bite, even playful, occur
- Parents will be contacted immediately
 - The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing
 - The child/adult will be released for medical attention
 - A full investigation into the circumstances will be led by the Head and Jenny Duckworth 'The Dog Mentor'
 - The suitability of the dog will be re-assessed by the Governors and Jenny Duckworth 'The Dog Mentor'
- 4.4 Pupils will
- Always be supervised by an adult when working with the dog
 - Meet the dog individually or in a small group of children
 - Be reminded about the rules and etiquette of how to meet and approach a dog before each meeting
 - Always remain calm around the dog
 - Always be gentle
 - Avoid staring directly at the dog's eyes as this could be interpreted as a threat
 - Keep their faces away from the dog
 - Never disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping
 - Never eat near or feed the dog
 - Only meet/work with the dog if they choose (they will be able to opt out)

- Learn about how dogs express their feeling through body language. If the dog displays any warning signs (growling, flattened ears, tail between legs, hiding) the pupil must step away and the dog will be removed immediately from the room or situation

4.5 The dog will

- Not come into school if unwell
- Be kept on a lead when working with children or moving around the school
- Be fully house-trained
- Have had all appropriate health checks and vaccinations
- Only be allowed onto the wider school site if a valid reason exists
- Not meet children during drop off and pick up times

4.6 When pupils show aggression towards the dog:

- The Dog Mentor will be contacted to advise on best practice
- If the child is excluded from the dogs, we the never change the behaviour
- Empathy and giving love and affection towards the dogs need to be gently but explicitly taught
- A plan will be put into place to manage explicit teaching of safe behaviour around the dog, which the child's individual needs taken into account
- Any interactions will be closely monitored for the dog and child's wellbeing
- Parents will be fully informed

4.7 COVID 19 (Linked with school COVID 19 Risk Assessment) :

- Dogs will be kept in their own social bubble
- Dogs will be groomed regularly
- Children/adults/visitors will wash their hands after touching the dog
- Dog beds will be aired daily

Section 5 – Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 School leaders will

- Ensure that a full risk assessment is in place for each dog who has permission to be in school
- Ensure that the actions identified in the risk assessment are consistently adhered to

5.2 The Head Teacher is responsible for implementing this policy. The Head Teacher may delegate this responsibility to the Deputy Head

5.3 All therapy dogs used at Greenvale Primary School have been sourced, trained and are affiliated to The Dog Mentor, Mrs Jenny Duckworth.