



School Dog Policy

Spring term 2020



Review frequency:	At least annually	Review date:	Spring term 2021
Governing committee responsible:	Curriculum committee		
Governor review approval:	Spring term 2020	Website:	Yes
Staff responsible:	Bursar	Date produced:	Summer term 2017

Background

Once fully trained the objective of having a School Dog at Clarborough Primary School is to assist:

- teaching of responsibility and respect;
- teaching empathy, non-violence and in some cases how to love and have patience;
- motivating children who are not that attentive;
- increasing social skills and self-esteem;
- increasing confidence around dogs and in general;
- improvement in attendance rates;
- helping to calm behaviour down – both in classrooms and in a 1:1 situation;
- increasing literacy skills – children begin to enjoy reading and want to read aloud.

Governing Body approval to have a School Dog was gained in November 2016 after consultation with NCC Health & Safety, the RSPCA and The Kennel Club. The Kennel Club Bark and Read standards of practice are followed by our school with welfare standards above the level required by them. Our School dog is registered as a trainee School dog with the charity Dogs Helping Kids and is over half way through a two year training programme.

We recognise that interacting with a dog may not be appropriate for all children. All families are asked (upon admission) whether they would like their child to interact with the dog, whether they are nervous or have had bad experiences and whether they are allergic. The handler will then take this into account and ensure that these children do not have direct contact with the dog unless they and their family would like this to happen. A list of these children is kept in her office.

Full risk assessments have been undertaken and the dog is insured by Dogs Helping Kids to undertake her training and interact with the pupils in our school. The insurance certificate is available to view in the Bursar's office.

Context

The dog:

- Is owned by the Bursar.
- Has been introduced to school as a puppy and has 'grown' up with the Bursar in school.
- 'Lives' in the Bursar's office, where it has its bed, water, etc.
- Is always kept on a lead when moving around school, unless undertaking specific training.
- Has a dedicated area to relieve itself in an area that children do not access to.
- Has all associated costs, including veterinary bills met by the Bursar.

The role of the Educational Assistance dog

From 24 months of age:

- Undertake the final 3 Dogs Helping Kids assessments.
- Aim to become a certified Dogs Helping Kids Educational Assistance dog!

It will be a requirement that the dog:

- Is regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Is diagnosed and treated by a vet if it is ill
- Receives regular inoculations.
- Is wormed and receives flea & tick treatment at the interval recommended by the Vet.
- Has its claws trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches.
- Is exercised before being allowed to work with children.

Management day to day

It is a requirement of the handler to ensure that:

- The dog is physically fit before visiting the school environment;
- The dog is kept on a lead when moving through the school or school ground during school hours. The dog may be taken off the lead whilst in its penned area and during direct training with the handler;
- The handler remains with the dog at all times when it is not in its crate, her office, or penned area;
- The dog is discouraged from jumping and scratching;
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard when interacting, i.e. not muddy, wet etc.
- Natural relief for the dog is taken in the designated area only, where pupils do not access (round the back of the shed by the bins). Waste will be disposed of by the handler, in bags deposited in a designated bin.

Pupils will:

- Never have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with the dog;
- Directly 'work' or interact with the dog in a group of not more than 3 children;
- Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog as part of an education programme run by the Bursar. Appropriate behaviours are:
 - Always remain calm around the dog
 - Don't make sudden movements and be gentle
 - Always approach the dog standing up
 - Do not approach the dog when it is sleeping or eating
 - Don't put your face near the dog
 - Don't stare into the dog's eyes as this can be interpreted as a threat
 - Do not eat close to the dog
- Learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicated that the dog is feeling threatened or angry. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling being signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog ever displays these warning signs it will immediately be removed from that particular situation or environment;
- Be informed of the following health and safety principles:
 - Always wash their hands and/or use anti-bac gel after handling the dog
 - Any dog 'mess' will be cleaned up immediately by the Bursar. This must never be done by children.

Should a bite (even playful) ever occur:

1. Parents or carers 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. The dog will be removed from direct contact with any child pending the outcome of the full investigation and reassessment.
6. A full investigation into the circumstances will be led by the Head Teacher.
7. The suitability of the dog will be re-assessed by the Head Teacher, Governing Body and if appropriate dog behaviourist Tracey Berridge from the Dogs Helping Kids charity, to which the dog will be working towards accreditation with.

Generic Risk Assessment for School Dog

Hazard	Risk	Risk (prior to controls) 1-5*	Like-likelihood 1-5*	Controls put in place	Risk after control
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to ground	1	2	The breed of dog that has been chosen by Mrs Cooper is one that has a calm, sensitive and reliable temperament. They are known to be very good with children and other animals. The breed has been chosen after seeking advice from Tracey Berridge BSc (hons), MSc, M.A.P.D.T., who is a dog behaviourist with over 25 years' experience and is the founder of the Dogs Helping Kids charity, www.dogshelpingkids.co.uk . . As well as Sian Ryan of Developing Dogs who also has an MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour.	1
	Child scratched by dog	3	2	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will not be allowed to freely roam the school premises during times when there is a risk that pupils will be present.	1
	Child bitten by dog	4	2	<p>Children will never be left with the dog unsupervised. Children actively involved with the dog will be from year 1 upwards, as younger children may be more prone to act unpredictably and therefore pose a greater risk. Initially these interactions will only take place with older children who are known to behave sensibly.</p> <p>The dog will always be on a lead when out of the office, except when it is undergoing structured training with its handler.</p> <p>The dog will be trained through positive reinforcement, to not jump up, or mouth anybody. She will also be discouraged from placing her paws on children, apart from during structured training sessions in response to a cue.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will be continually given to the children and often to the whole school during assemblies or PSHE sessions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them, for instance: stand still and cross their arms.</p> <p>The dog will undergo ongoing formal positive reinforcement training. This started with puppy socialisation classes with Sian Ryan (of the BBC show 'Me and My Dog'), through her dog training classes at Developing Dogs near Ely as soon as she had her inoculations.</p>	1

<p>Dog getting over excited when interacting with children cont...</p>				<p>Mrs Cooper now attends classes with Hotdogs Training in Soham, under the instruction of Wendy Lunn (OCN), an APDT instructor.</p> <p>The dog will undergo continual assessment by Tracey Berridge BSc (hons), MSc, M.A.P.D.T. Tracey is a dog behaviourist with over 25 years' experience and is the founder of the Dogs Helping Kids charity.</p> <p>Tracey has already assessed the dog and feels that she has the potential to be an Educational Assistance Dog and has a suitable temperament. Mrs Cooper has attended the Advanced Puppy training, has passed an entry test, welfare assessments and three further assessments with the charity. She is now over half way through their School Dog training programme, with three more assessments to go.</p> <p>The dog has undertaken conditioning to the school environment. This training will allow for the dog to potentially be able to provide assistance during reading intervention and classroom support during PSHE sessions and will lead to the dog being involved in the classroom environment (under constant supervision and only if all children in that class are happy for the dog to be there), in a calm manner.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce as the puppy matures, so the risk assessment will be reviewed as the dog progresses through its training programme. Direct contact with pupils will only ever be with parental consent and will be minimal until the temperament of the dog is known and their behaviour more predictable.</p> <p>All staff will be introduced to the dog and the expectations (does and don'ts) of having an Educational Assistance Dog.</p> <p>The dog will attend the vets' regularly to make sure its claws are kept short (as comfortable for the dog) and that it is in good health.</p>	
<p>Dog getting loose from its designated area or from its lead</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The dog will primarily spend its time in the office with pupils. When in school there will be a sign placed on the office door to indicate that she is in and a sign will be shown in the reception area of the school. The sign on the office door, tells people to knock and wait for the door to be opened. They are regularly reminded not to enter the room on the days that the dog is in, unless the door is opened for them.</p> <p>Should the dog ever get loose there will be two members of staff who can be called upon to help at any time.</p>	<p>1</p>

Allergic reaction	Children have allergic reactions	1	1	<p>Parents will be asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to the introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school system and in the folder containing all of the Educational Assistance Dog paperwork.</p> <p>Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt of out interaction if they wish to do so.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands and/or use anti-bac gel after active participation with the dog. Younger children will be supervised when doing this. There will also be wipes available for use if preferred.</p>	1
Children getting germs from Jeske	Children/staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs	1	1	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site Mrs Cooper will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner (in a designated bin).. The dog will be trained to toilet in an area of the school that our pupil's do not have access to on a regular basis. If required, the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>All immunisations will be kept up to date in accordance with the European Vet guidelines,</p> <p>The dog will be regularly checked for worms and treated as necessary in line with European Vet guidelines. She will also be regularly checked for fleas and ticks.</p> <p>The dog will not go in the school dining hall at meal times, nor will it enter the school kitchen or areas where food is being prepared.</p>	1
Financial cost of Jeske's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of Jeske's day to day upkeep or medical bills	1	1	<p>The dog will be the responsibility of Mrs Cooper and she will be financially responsible for all its care and day to day costs. The dog will also be the responsibility of Mrs Cooper outside of school hours.</p> <p>The training costs for activities involving the pupils will also be paid for by Mrs Cooper. Mrs Cooper may (with SLT support) undertake fundraising activities to help supplement this significant cost of the training programme. All positive reinforcement training will also be funded by Mrs Cooper.</p>	1
Claim is made against school	School not adequately covered financially	1	1	<p>Since being accepted onto the Dogs Helping Kids training programme, the dog has been insured by them to undertake the work and training that she does in school. Outside of school Mrs Cooper insures her independently. This insurance will be renewed annually and the certificate will be kept with the other Educational Assistance Dog paperwork and is available to be seen upon demand by any parent/carers or staff member.</p>	1

Emergency plan in case of incident or accident	<p>Plan for children and staff</p> <p>Any accident or injury to any child or adult in school will be dealt with in accordance with the schools existing Health and Safety policy and procedures.</p>
Emergency plan in case of incident or accident	<p>Plan for the dog</p> <p>Any accident or injury that results in an injury or trauma to the dog will be dealt with according to the dog's immediate needs. Mrs Cooper will have the final say with regards to any action required and the dog would be taken to its registered veterinary practice by Mrs Cooper.</p>

Key to risk: 1: low risk 3: Medium risk of injury 5: High risk of injury