



# WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Secondary Academy

## DOGS AND PETS IN SCHOOL POLICY

Review cycle:	Three yearly
Reviewed by:	Operations Manager
Approved by:	Local Governing Body

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
1	27 February 2024	Julie Swatton	New policy

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### INTRODUCTION

Children and adults can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with animals such as dogs. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals in general.

### RISKS IN BRINGING A DOG INTO A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

There are a variety of accidents which can happen within the school environment which far exceed the number of injuries or incidents caused by a dog. However, we must always remember that dogs are animals and with that comes potential risk. As such the risk needs to be assessed and reviewed – see Appendix I.

### LEGISLATION

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Animal Welfare Act 2006

### SCHOOL POLICY

- The Principal and the Governing Body have agreed that the school can have therapy dogs in school to work with identified students.

- The Principal and the Governing Body have agreed that the school can have an enrichment group dog in school to work with identified students.
- Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will be having therapy dogs school in to use in targeted interventions and additional programmes.
- Parents have been informed that therapy dogs will be used in the curriculum.
- The Operations Manager has produced a risk assessment (Appendix I) and this will be reviewed annually.
- Only dogs that have been assessed by the school will be allowed on the school site.
- All dogs should be vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas and evidence seen by the Operations Manager.
- Therapy dogs should be groomed regularly.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the therapy dogs.
- If a dog is ill he/she will not be allowed into school.
- The number one rule for all members of the school community to follow is to 'not interact with the dog unless invited to by the dog handler'.
- The therapy dogs will be kept on a lead when moving between locations or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an adult at all times.
- Dogs will not go into classrooms; they will support students in designated areas on the site
- Students must never be left alone with the therapy dogs and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with students.
- Only authorised people may feed the therapy dogs.
- Students should always wash their hands after touching the therapy dogs and strictly follow the school hygiene measures.
- Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the therapy dogs. Students should remain calm around the dogs. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog. Students should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
- Students should never go near or disturb the dog when it is **sleeping** or **eating**.
- Students must not be allowed to play too roughly with the therapy dogs.
- If a dog is surrounded by a large number of students, 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 a dog is feeling angry or threatened. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that a dog is frightened or nervous. If a dog is displaying any of these warning signs he/she should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Students should not eat close to the therapy dogs.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.
- Any dogs in school should always be in the presence of their adult dog handler. Dogs may only be left alone by prior arrangement with the SENCo or a member of SLT (if the SENCo is not available). Any such arrangement must include a risk assessment.
- In the event of a fire alarm, dogs and handlers must gather at the appropriate location on the tennis courts. In the event of a dog being in a separate location to the handler, an arrangement to remove the dog from the building must have been made. This will form part of the risk assessment in the previous bullet point.

## **VISITING DOGS**

Dogs not associated with the school are not allowed onto the school site. Anybody wishing to bring a dog onto the school site must contact the school and discuss this in advance. This includes parents and carers bringing dogs on to the school site to meet students at the end of the day.

## **STRAY DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

If there is a stray dog in the school grounds, we will contact our local Council Dog Warden who will come and remove the dog from our school.

## **DOG OWNER WALKING OR EXERCISING THEIR DOG(S) IN SCHOOL GROUNDS**

School playing fields and playgrounds are private property and should not be used for the purposes of exercising dogs. In the first instance, if it is safe to do so, we will approach the dog owner and ask them to leave. If the practice continues or staff feel unable to approach the dog owner we will contact our Council Dog Warden or the Police. If there is a particular problem, we will ensure that playing fields and/or the playground are inspected prior to use, for evidence of dog fouling.

## **GUIDE AND REGISTERED ASSISTANCE DOGS**

Where a person has a registered assistance dog the Academy has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that they are not discriminated against, under the Equality Act 2010.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs and pets in school
- The Principal is responsible for implementing this policy. The Principal may delegate this responsibility to the SENCo.
- Staff are required to abide by this policy.
- The Operations Manager is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance as and when required.

## Appendix I

<b>Operations/Work Activities covered by this assessment:</b>	Dogs in school					
<b>Site Address/Location:</b>	The Avenue, Dysart Road, Grantham NG31 7PX	<b>Department/Service/Team:</b>	WGS			
<b>Assessment Date:</b>	28/02/2024	<b>Lead Assessor:</b>	Julie Swatton			
<b>Authorised By:</b>	Justin Parsons					
<b>Who Might Be Affected</b>	Employee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pupil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member of Public/Third Party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Note:</b> A person specific assessment must be carried out for young persons, pregnant employees, and nursing employees						

Hazards Considered	How might they be Harmed	Current Control/Mitigation Measures:	Risk Rating			Action Required/ Action No.
			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	
Bites, scratches, or illness caused by the dog	Cuts and infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements are in place for first aid and to seek medical advice if in doubt about the risk of infection</li> <li>• Staff, students, and parents are aware that dogs (except therapy and registered assistance) should not be allowed on school premises</li> <li>• Dogs are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas</li> <li>• All students and staff are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs</li> <li>• Handlers clear up dog foul promptly and dispose of this safely</li> <li>• Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas</li> </ul>				
Allergies	May experience potential contamination causing allergic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental consent for students interacting with dogs</li> <li>• Dogs not to enter classrooms and support only in designated areas</li> </ul>				

Hazards Considered	How might they be Harmed	Current Control/Mitigation Measures:	Risk Rating			Action Required/ Action No.
			Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	
	reaction, including rashes, stomach upsets and diarrhoea					
Phobias	Physical and emotional response to coming into contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental consent in advance for students coming into contact with dogs</li> <li>• Contact with dogs is optional</li> <li>• Students with known phobias to be informed of dogs in school</li> </ul>				
Activities and games involving dogs	Injury to the dog, bites, scratches, infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handler to remain with the dog at all times</li> <li>• Handler to speak to the school in advance to make sure the area and activity is safe</li> <li>• Limit the number of students who can interact with a dog at one time</li> <li>• Handler to clean up dog foul</li> <li>• Students who misbehave or upset the dogs to be removed from the activity</li> <li>• Time limit to be set on activities as recommended by the handler so the dogs do not get tired</li> </ul>				
Poor behaviour	Injury to the dog, bites, scratches, and infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are told in advance what to expect and how to behave</li> <li>• School staff are present at all times with the students</li> <li>• School staff are ready to remove students who misbehave or upset the dogs</li> </ul>				
Damage caused to school materials, equipment, and the school site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs remain on a lead at all times</li> <li>• Dogs are kept in secured rooms with close doors</li> <li>• Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary</li> <li>• Designated areas are cleared as much as possible before the dog's visit</li> <li>• Dogs do not go into classrooms</li> </ul>				