



THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL

DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY

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Signature of Chair of Governors	Signature of Headteacher

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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.

IS THERE A RISK IN BRINGING A DOG INTO A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT?

Of course there is, though 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. Therefore, it is just another risk that needs to be managed.

SCHOOL POLICY

- The Headteacher and the Governing Body have both agreed that the school can have a PAT dog (Pets as Therapy) attend planned lessons.
- Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will be using a PAT dog in timetabled lessons.
- Parents/carers have been informed that a dog will be used in the curriculum.
- The Health & Safety officer has produced a risk assessment and this will be reviewed annually.
- PAT registered dogs are the only dogs permitted in the school buildings.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog and the dog will not be used near them.

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- If the dog is ill he 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 at all times.
- Students must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with students.
- Only authorised people may feed the dog.
- Students should always wash their hands after touching the dog.
- Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Students 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. Students should not to put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up. This will be shared through assemblies.
- Students should never go near or disturb the dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Students must not be allowed to play too roughly with the dog.
- If the 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 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.
- Children should not feed, or eat close to the dogs.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.

LEGISLATION

- The primary applicable legislation is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Animal Welfare Act 2006

PARENTS/CARERS BRINGING DOGS INTO SCHOOL GROUNDS

Parents/carers who bring their dogs into the school grounds, while walking their children to or from school, should keep their dog on a lead at all times. The adult must always have control of the dog – children must never be left alone with or in charge of the dog.

STRAY DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

If there is a stray dog in your school grounds, Reception should contact the local Council Dog Warden who will come and remove the dog from your school. If you have a recurring problem with stray dogs on the school property, you should look at how your site is secured. Remedial work to perimeter fencing may help to reduce the problem.

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, you should contact Site Staff to approach the dog owner and ask them to leave. If the practice continues or you feel unable to approach the dog owner you should contact your Council dog warden or the police. If there is a particularly problem for you school, you should ensure that playing fields and/or the playground are inspected prior to use for evidence of dog fouling.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School.
- The Headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy. The Headteacher may delegate this responsibility to a Deputy Head.
- Teachers and staff are required to abide by this policy.
- The Health and Safety Officer is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance as and when required.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

See PAT Dog Risk Assessment and SEND Policy

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To be reviewed September 2020

Additional amendments to be made as required with reference to statutory guidance and legislation.

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FURTHER INFORMATION/REFERENCES

See the SENDCO for more information



APPENDIX 1 - Risk Management - Assessment Report

Risk Area:	Secondary General
Assessment Framework:	Bringing Pets into School - Dog
Work Area or Activity:	Pat Dog
Competent Person:	Paula Wilkins
Groups Affected:	pupils and staff

Assessed on:	23/10/2016
To be Reviewed on:	30/10/2017

Risk Rating:	Below 9 - Low Risk
	9 to 14 - Medium Risk
	15 or above - High Risk

What are the Hazards?	What is already being done?	Is this considered satisfactory?	Risk Findings
Do you ensure the dog is kept on the lead at all times? The owner should keep hold of the lead at all times.	The dog will at all times be under the control of the owner.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure the dog wears a muzzle at all times?	As this is a PAT dog it will not be muzzled.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:2 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure the students do not pull at the dog or do anything that may anger it?	Pupils will be closely supervised around the dog at all times and they will be briefed about how to conduct themselves around dogs.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:2 Risk Rating:3
Do you ensure the students do not over crowd the dog or do anything which may scare it?	Pupils will be in small groups and closely supervised and the owner will communicate with staff at all times.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure students do not touch any faeces from the dog?	The owner will be asked to ensure that the dog has been to the toilet prior to the visit. Should the dog defecate this will be cleared and cleaned immediately. Pupils will be closely supervised at all times.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure procedures are in place to quickly clean up any faeces?	Bags are carried with the handler at all times.	Yes	Severity:1 Likelihood:1

			Risk Rating:1 Severity:2 Likelihood:2 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure students do not touch the dog unless instructed to do so by a member of staff?	Pupils will be closely supervised by staff at all times and will have been told about touching the dog.	Yes	
Do you ensure the owner stays with the dog at all times?	The dog will remain with its handler/owner at all times.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:2 Risk Rating:2
Do you ensure the dog is fully inoculated?	The dog will be fully inoculated at this is a requirement of PAT dogs.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Have you informed parents/carers what date the dog will be in?	Parents/carers will be informed that the dog will be in school who will have access to the dog.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Has risk assessment and planning been carried out for any student who are allergic to dogs?	Any medical needs of any pupils will be taken into account and should there be allergies known those pupils will not access this activity.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2
Will children be educated on what to do if the dog escapes the lead and approaches them without supervision? Avoid running or screaming if they're frightened, instead they should stand still, fold their arms and stay quiet.	Pupils will be closely supervised, in small groups and will have access to an exit which will take them away from the area that the dog is in. They will be told about noise around animals and about how to stay still should they be asked to do so. All students are informed about how to behave around the dog through assemblies.	Yes	Severity:2 Likelihood:1 Risk Rating:2

Paula Wilkins

Signed

Dated

Co-ordinator

Signed

Dated

APPENDIX 2 - KAS-Dog in School Action Plan

Objective- To add value to the lives of the young people in the school community by way of having a 'visiting dog' in school. The objective would aim to support key students with clear personal outcomes that would support both academic and social achievement.

Risk-There is always a risk of having any dog coming into contact with humans. In a school environment the risk is potentially higher due to the high level of interaction between students and the dog. This risk must be managed. (Please see risk assessment and Dog in School Policy).

Rationale- Animals, such as dogs, have long been associated as a form of therapy for humans. Children 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 and adults take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog. Charities such as Pets As Therapy (PAT hereafter) have a 30+ year record of dogs and cats being used in such a way.

What it would look like at KAS-

PW to bring her dog 'Mr Darcy', a Lurcher. Below are suggested elements of a programme. That Mr Darcy will follow. Mr Darcy is a PAT registered dog (ID number 1108156) which means he has been examined and assessed, by an accredited assessor, for his health, temperament and suitability for working as a therapeutic dog.

Literacy time. Students to spend 10-15 mins reading to the dog to boost confidence to follow the 'Read to Dogs' programme run by PAT.	Personal care / hygiene- a small group of KS3 students to spend time caring and grooming the dog reflecting on similarities and differences to human care.	Assertiveness training- Student given time to dog walk, with the aim of training the dog to perform simple tasks e.g. sit and stay.	Dog on call-The dog is used to help defuse and deescalate emotional and / or conflict situations. Can help to distract student emotions when high and could speed up the process of self-reflection and solution finding.	Exam buddy-Dog to be used with students for revision. The dog can provide a calming effect and stroking the dog can aid memory.
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It is important to note that any dog used in a therapeutic way has 'down time'. PAT guidelines suggest that an animal 'works' for approximately 1 hour at a time and a maximum of 3 hours a day. Dogs being used as a form of therapy must be seen as working. Therefore, during the course of a school day a final programme must take this into account and have the dog assigned for 'duties' for approximately 2 ½ - 3 hours. When the dog is 'off duty', it would be housed on his bed in the SENDCO office.

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