

Crooksbar Primary School

School Dog Policy

Monitoring the policy

The Headteacher will monitor the application of the policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.

The policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body on a regular basis to ensure its effective application.

Section 1 – Rationale

Section 2 – Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

Section 3 - Health & Safety Principles

Section 4 – Roles and Responsibilities

Policy Date	September 2017
Signed by Headteacher	Mr Twiby
Review Date	September 2018

Crooksbar Primary School Dog Policy

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and approaches taken at Crooksbar Primary School

Section 1 – Rationale

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 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.

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.

Section 2 – Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

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. 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.

Parents will always be informed if a dog is visiting 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 3 – Health & Safety Principles

3.1 Children will always wash their hands after handling the dog

3.2 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)

3.3 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 Headteacher

3.4 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

3.5 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

Section 4 – Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 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

4.2 The Headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy. The Headteacher may delegate this responsibility to the Deputy Head