



Bishopton Primary School



Dog in School policy

Prepared by:	<i>V Charman</i>	
Ratified by:		
Reviewed:		



Introduction

Children and adults can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills, through contact with a suitable, calm dog.

In addition to these benefits, children and adults take great enjoyment from interaction with animals.

Our school dog is well cared for and responsibly owned by Mrs Charman, living with a member of staff.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

This policy shows that we have thought carefully about school life with a dog and how, through careful management, there is a very low risk of harm.

Context

- The dog is owned by Mrs Charman and lives with her.
- Veterinary costs will be covered by Mrs Charman
- The dog has been chosen for the general characteristics of its breed Goldendoodle – great with children, very sociable, unaggressive, hypoallergenic, no or low shedding.
- The risk assessment will be reviewed annually.
- Visitors and new pupils will be informed of the dog on arrival.
- Public Liability Insurance will be covered by the school.

Staff responsible for dog.

- Mrs Charman
- Katie Fromson
- Emma Tedstone
- Michele Kilminster
- Lauren Jones

Day-to-Day Management

The dog will:

- Not be allowed in school if he is unwell.
- Be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk.
- Be under the full control and supervision of an adult at all times.
- Will be kept in Mrs Charman's office with a quiet area for resting.
- Have had all vaccinations.



Our pupils will:

- Not have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with, the dog.
- Meet the dog in a group of no more than three children, following 'approach, ask, pet, goodbye'.

Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog every time they meet her:

- Always remain calm.
- Be gentle.
- Do not put your face near the dog's face.
- Do not disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping.
- Always approach the dog standing up.
- Do not feed the dog.

The pupils and adults will also learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicates that the dog feels threatened or angry. 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 signs, she should immediately be removed from that particular situation or environment.

Health and Safety Principals

Children and adults will always wash their hands or use hand sanitiser after handling the dog.

Any dog excrement will be cleared up immediately and disposed of appropriately by the adult in charge of the dog at the time. Children must never be allowed to do this.

Should a bite occur (even playfully):

- 1) Parents 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) A full investigation will take place.
- 6) The suitability of having a dog will be reassessed by the Headteacher.



Dog Safeguarding Policy

The welfare of our animals is central to what we do. We are advocates for our animals; this allows them to be the best therapy dogs possible.

The following safeguarding policy has been created to ensure the dog's wellbeing and physical health are always considered when working with them.

This policy is specific to Loki (dog) working with Mrs Charman (person) at Bishopton primary School

- Visits must be mutually beneficial for the dog and the organisation/individual they are visiting. This will be monitored closely.
- Our dog handlers will only use positive methods when training and supporting their dog.
- Our dog handlers have completed the PAWS dog behaviour/stress signal training allowing them to be aware of stress signals their dog may exhibit.
- Our dog handlers will withdraw their dog if they feel their dog Loki is stressed. A stressed dog will not be able to support the client effectively.
- Loki must be well exercised before they attend sessions/visits and have regular (non-negotiable) breaks if they are onsite for a full 4-hour period. The definition of a break is non-contact time away from all other humans and dogs. It can be quietly resting or going for a walk or sniff.
- Water must be available at all times.
- Once Loki is comfortable in their environment, they may support the client off lead. This is to allow Loki free choice so they can opt out of an interaction if they need to. This supports their stress levels allowing them to regulate themselves. (Prior permission required).
- Always be dog led. Asking them to sit, stay, come can be used but we actively encourage Our dog handlers to observe the dogs body language to see if they are enjoying the activity. Over working and or expecting too much from them can result in learnt helplessness behaviours or over aroused stressed behaviours.
- Visits to the school will last a maximum of 4 hours. If the maximum contract is in place several non-restrictive/ compulsory breaks and rest times must be included to allow Loki to recuperate. 4 hours does not mean 4 hours contact time with clients.
- A safe, quiet rest area must be provided where the dog will not have to engage with humans. This area must be a safe space that no one other than the dogs' caretakers have access to.
- If Loki is under the weather, ill or injured they should not work. You know your dog best and should advocate for their needs.



- Our dog handlers will communicate, set boundaries and manage the expectations of the visit to ensure a mutually beneficial visit takes place. Taking into account how many people are engaging with Loki, the environment and the activities Loki is taking part in.
- Our dog handlers will seek guidance from our trainers and/or your own positive dog trainer if you have any concerns for your dog's health/behaviour. If we work as a team, we can support our PAWS dogs positively.

