

Dog Policy

Hawthorn Primary School



INDIVIDUALLY WE MATTER, TOGETHER WE SHINE

Approved by: Governing Board

Pupil progress and welfare

Date: 22/9/23

Last reviewed on:

2020

Next review due by:

2025

Introduction

Research carried out has shown that children can benefit educationally and emotionally when working with a dog. By having a dog in school it increases their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with the 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?

Yes 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. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out and this is included in this document (see appendix 1). Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Head Teacher. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog to be present.

School Policy

The dog will be owned by Mrs Abraham.

- The Governors have the right to refuse entry to the dog.
- Only Bailey, the school dog is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless they are a known therapy or assistance dog and the Headteacher has been informed beforehand.
- Bailey is a miniature poodle and has been chosen because it is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with children, hypo allergenic and is very sociable and friendly.
- The Chair of Governors, Mr Chris Pritchard and the governing board agree that a school dog will benefit the children and staff of Hawthorn Primary School.
- Staff, parents and children have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. Mrs Abraham, Headteacher has produced a risk assessment and this will be reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors, and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog. All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in school.
- If Bailey is ill, he will not be allowed into school.
- Bailey will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of a trained adult.
- Children must never be left alone with Bailey and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Children should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around Bailey. Children should remain calm around him. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a

dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog. Children should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.

- Children should never go near or disturb Bailey if he is sleeping or eating.
- Children must not be allowed to play roughly with Bailey
- Everyone must wait until Bailey is settled, sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
- If the Bailey is surrounded by a large number of children, he 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 bearing 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 Bailey is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Children should not eat close to Bailey.
- Children should be careful to stroke Bailey on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.
- All visitors will be informed about Bailey and related protocols on arrival and office, staff will relay visitor issues to the Headteacher asap.
- The office will know the whereabouts of Bailey and which staff are supervising at all times.
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mrs Abraham or Mrs Cook