



Fishbourne Church of England Primary School

School Dog Policy

Lead member of staff	Head teacher
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At Fishbourne Church of England Primary School we start with the WHY – our core belief drives all decision making. We think deeply about the HOW, using our core belief to guide decisions on a day to day basis. Finally we decide WHAT action brings our belief to life.

Our core belief is that:

***'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place'***

This core belief is at the heart of why and how we create our policy and the policy in action.

God you made me; you created me. Psalm 119

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.

Principles

At Fishbourne CE Primary we ensure that the greatest care is taken to ensure the safety of animals, pupils and staff by aiming:

- To prevent the spread of infection from animal handler to animal
- To ensure animal welfare is maintained at all times.
- To ensure the care of animals health and well-being whilst at school.
- To maintain the safety of the animal handler by socializing the animal before it is handled by pupils.

Practice, animal handling and animal health

- The dog will be owned by Mrs Naomi Day and her family.
- The dog is a cocker spaniel with a very gentle temperament.
- Head Teacher and Governors have agreed that the school can have a dog – November 2022.
- Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will have a dog – November 2022.
- Parents have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school – November 2022
- A policy and risk assessment have been written and these will be reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog.
- 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.
- Children must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with pupils.
- Children should learn about appropriate behaviour around the dog.
- Children should never go near or disturb the dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Children should not sit on the floor when working with Barnacle but should be seated.
- Children should not allow Barnacle to jump up and should request he sits before showing him any attention.
- Children should be careful to stroke Barnacle on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head.

- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of children, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation and remove children or the dog if necessary.
- 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 dog.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.
- Appropriately trained staff will maintain records and anecdotal evidence of the work and impact of the school dog.
- The office will know the whereabouts of the dog and which staff are supervising at all times.
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mrs Day or a member of the office team.

Allergies

- Children/staff known to have allergic reactions/phobias to dogs to have restricted access
- Good hygiene and hand washing followed.

Actions

If someone reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the Head Teacher or Assistant head as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the Head teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School.
- The Head teacher is responsible for implementing this policy.
- Teachers, staff, children, parents and visitors are required to abide by this policy.
- The curriculum will support learning about dogs and how best to behave around our dog. This will include highlighting that not all dogs are well trained and that caution must be used around unknown dogs outside school.