**WEATHERFIELD ACADEMY**

**To become the best person you can be**.



**School Dog Policy**

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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.

**School Policy**

The dog will be owned by Mrs Katie Owen. The dog is a long haired Chihuahua.

Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will have a dog.

Parents have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school.

A risk assessment has been writing and included below.

Staff, visitors and students 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 unless in Mrs Owen’s office.

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.

Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Students should remain calm around the dog, a ‘does and don’ts’ has been created to assist primary pupils with understanding appropriate behaviour.

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. 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 only feed Dobby his treats under the supervision of Mrs Owen.

Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog.

Any dog foul will be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by an adult.

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| Risk assessment for School Dog  K.Owen - November 2017 | | | |
| Dog getting over excited when interacting with children. | Child bitten by Dog  Child scratched by Dog  Child knocked to ground | The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises.  Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. The dog will always be on a lead when he is out of the Safeguarding office, except when he is being walked as part of a student's reward.  The dog will be trained not to jump up or mouth the children. Pupils have been, and continue to be, taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to whole school during assemblies, form time and PSHE lessons.  The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, this area of training with allow future reading or nurture intervention to involve the school dog in a rewarding manner.  Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce and the risk assessment will be review as the dog progresses through his weekly training programme.  ALL staff have been introduced to the dog and the expectations (does and don’t) of having a school dog.  The dog will attend the vets’ regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and that he is in good health. | Review November 2017 |
| The dog gets loose from his pen or from his lead. |  | The dog’s pen is big enough for him to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease his. He will only have interaction with the pupils with Mrs Owen present and on his lead. When in the office the pupils will be taught that he is having ‘Dobby time’.  If the dog does get loose from the office the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in the office.  Mrs Owen will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if he needs attention at any other time. | Review November 2017 |
| Dog hair causing allergies | Children have allergic reactions | Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school recording system and visible in the school office.  Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Children have been taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. | Review November 2017 |
| Children getting germs from the dog. | Children/staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs | Should the dog defecate on the school site Mrs Owen will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner.  The dog will be trained to toilet in an area of the school that our pupil’s don’t have access to on a regular basis, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.  All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme, Mrs Owen has record of this. Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 6 monthly intervals The dog will not go in the school dining hall at mealtimes; he will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen. | Review November 2017 |
| Financial cost of the dog’s upkeep | School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog’s day to day upkeep or medical bills | The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Owen, she is financially responsible for all his care and day to day costs.  The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Owen outside of school hours.  Mrs Owen will provide treats and bedding for the dog to use during work hours. | Review November 2017 |
| Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog. | School not adequately covered financially | Mrs Owen, via Animal Friends Insurance, insures the dog.  The certificate is kept in school office and is renewed annually in July. | Review November 2017 |
| Equal opportunities |  | Equal opportunities  All young people will be treated equally, regardless of race, creed or gender. The policy will be applied regardless of culture, faith or belief.  Pupils will have chance to interact with the Dog as a reward for good behaviour, they will have the opportunity to walk Dobby. | Review November 2017 |