



THE
Beaulieu Park
SCHOOL

SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Committee Responsible	LGB
Lead Staff Member	Head of Primary School
Approved by	LGB
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THE BEAULIEU PARK SCHOOL – CAREERS EDUCATION & GUIDANCE POLICY



Introduction

Through contact with a dog, children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills.

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 incidents caused by a dog. Therefore, having a dog on school premises is just another risk that must be managed. A rigorous risk assessment has been carried out and is included in Appendix 1.

At present, dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Principal. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put into place to allow the school dog to be present.

Rationale

Academic research has shown that dogs working and helping in the school environment can achieve the following:

- Improve academic achievement
- Increase literacy skills
- Have calming behaviours
- Increase social skills and self esteem
- Increase confidence
- Teach responsibility and respect for animals and all life
- Help improve attendance
- Motivate children who are often less attentive.

Main purpose of the school dog:

- To listen to children read- research has shown that this can have a positive impact on pupil progress- especially those pupils with low self-esteem and confidence.
- To work with small groups of children to improve student's social skills.
- To teach the children how to care for an animal.
- The dog will also be trained as a PAT (Pets as therapy dog). This will mean that the dog will be used in a pastoral way across the 2 phases of the Beaulieu Park School and potentially across the trust.

Key Information

- The dog will belong to Kelly Koller (Head of Primary School). This means that all costs associated with looking after and caring for the dog will be her responsibility.
- The governors and trustees have the right to refuse entry to the dog.
- The breed of the dog is a Labradoodle (Labrador and poodle cross). This has been specifically chosen because of its temperament, intelligence and because it doesn't shed hair.
- The dog will undergo regular training.
- Several breeders have been researched and visited by Miss Koller to ensure the best possible dog is found- this has involved visits to Coventry and Cornwall.
- If any children/ staff have allergies to dogs, the dog will be kept away from them. Allergies will be minimized by the specific breed of dog selected.
- The school will receive permission from all families for their children to interact with the dog.
- All visitors to the school will be informed that there is a dog on the premises.
- The dog will always be on a lead and will have an allocated place in the school to rest, play- this will not be accessible to the children.
- The dog will not be allowed on the playground/ fields during the school day and will not be allowed in the dinner hall during lunchtime.
- The dog will not spontaneously be taken into classes and any interactions would be planned in advance.
- Parents and carers can always opt out of their children having any interactions with the dog at any time.

Appendix 1

Identified Hazard	Risk	Risk Category 1-5	Likelihood 1-5	Controls in place
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child scratched	3	2	-The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult who would have received handling training. -Children are never left with the dog unsupervised.

	Child bitten	4	2	<p>-The dog will always be on a lead when out of his area.</p> <p>-The dog will be regularly trained by experienced trainers from a reputable dog behaviourist company and will work towards PAT dog status (when 9 months old). -Children will be taught how to behave around animals regularly- this includes in class and assemblies. -Pupils will be taught how to remain calm around animals.</p> <p>-Staff and children will be trained to prevent the dog from jumping up/licking by turning around and using a shared language.</p>
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				<p>-All staff will undergo training if they are to handle the dog.</p> <p>-The dog will regularly visit the vet to make sure he is in good health. The dog wouldn't have any contact with the students until Miss Koller and the behaviour specialist agreed it was the right time.</p>
The dog gets loose from its pen or lead.	Child/ staff injured by dog.	1	1	<p>-The dog's pen will be in a small room between the school office and Miss Koller's office. There will be a sign above the door when the dog is in school and no-one will enter without permission. The door will be secured with a baby gate so that the dog isn't able to come out unless on its lead.</p> <p>-Staff and children will only be able to see/ interact with the dog via the main office and Head of School office.</p> <p>-Office staff and HoS will ensure safe containment of the dog at all times. If the dog was to get out, there is another set of closed double doors for him to pass before he can go anywhere else so he is contained. However, if this does happen, there will be named members of site and office staff to get him back. -When out of the pen, the dog will always be on a short lead.</p>

Dog hair causing allergies	Child/ adult having an allergic reaction.	1	1	-Parents will be asked to inform the school of any known allergies (In addition to the new starter information requested). -Those children with allergies, if any, will be able to opt out. -Children will be taught to wash their hands after touching/ working near the dog. -The dog will be groomed regularly to minimise shedding.
Children getting germs from the dog	Children/ staff will contract any diseases that may be carried by the dog.	1	1	-The dog will have an allocated outside space (away from children) to defecate. This will be picked up and taken off the school premises each day. -All immunisations will be up to date and HoS will keep a record of this in school.
				-Flea (monthly)/ worming treatment (3 monthly intervals) will be carried out regularly. -The dog will never enter any food preparation areas.
A claim is made against the school regarding the dogs behaviour.	School not adequately covered financially.	1	1	-The school has public liability insurance and will seek specialist dog in school insurance (at a cost of approx. £300 per year). -Miss Koller will have the dog assessed as a PAT dog as soon as he is able.

Other things to note...

What if the dog dies?

The dog will be selected from a reputable breeder with considerable health checks on both parents. The dog will be fed the best diet and will be exercised regularly (outside of school hours) in order to ensure the best possible health. If in the event the dog dies, we will work closely with our children, families and staff and offer support for those affected. Death is something that affects all of us at some point and, if dealt with sensitively, can be a good life lesson to learn about at a young age.

What if Miss Koller leaves?

This isn't something that has been considered at this early stage in the opening of the school although this could be a possibility during the dog's lifetime. If Miss Koller leaves, the dog would of course be her responsibility.

At The Beaulieu Park School our children are taught to develop their resilience and throughout their career at school and are supported in dealing with staff and peers moving on/ teachers changing.

