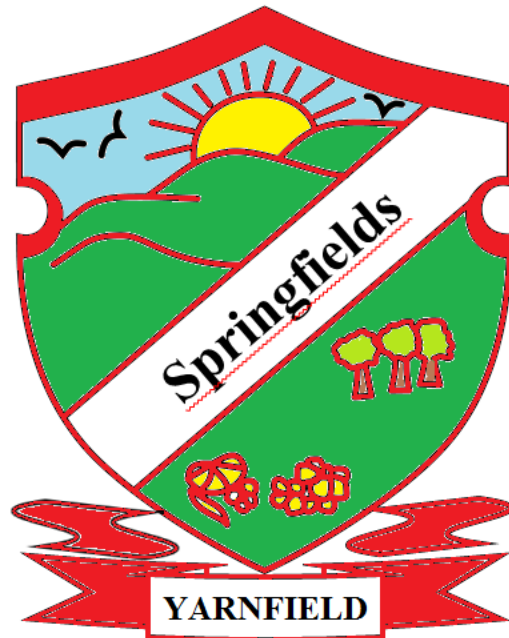


SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Springfields First School



Introduction

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally from contact with a school dog. Interaction with a dog can help develop responsibility, empathy, nurturing skills and confidence, while also providing enjoyment and wellbeing benefits.

The presence of a dog in school introduces a manageable risk. A risk assessment is maintained and reviewed annually. Dogs are not permitted on the school site unless specifically authorised by Mrs Goodfellow.

Policy Statement

The school dog will be owned and managed by Mrs Goodfellow.

- The Governing Body reserves the right to refuse entry to any school dog.
- Only authorised school dogs are permitted on site. All other dogs are prohibited unless they are recognised therapy or assistance dogs and permission has been granted by Mrs Goodfellow.
- Oscar has been selected for his suitability, temperament and ability to work safely with children.
- Staff, parents and pupils will be informed that a dog is present within school and the risk assessment will be reviewed annually by Mrs Goodfellow.
- Any staff, visitors or pupils with known allergies or concerns relating to dogs will be supported and should not be required to have contact with the dog.
- If a dog is unwell, he will not attend school.
- The dog will be kept on a lead whenever appropriate, including when moving between locations.
- During the school day, the dog may move around designated areas under the supervision of trained staff.
- Children will be taught appropriate behaviour around dogs and reminded regularly of expectations.
- Children must never disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Rough play with the dog is not permitted.
- Children and adults must wait until the dog is calm before stroking or interacting with it.
- Staff supervising the dog must monitor interactions and prevent overcrowding around the dog.
- Children should not eat in close proximity to the dog.

- All children and adults must wash their hands after handling the dog.
- Parents will be consulted regarding pupil interaction with the dog using an opt-out arrangement.
- Visitors will be informed that a dog is on site and relevant concerns will be communicated promptly to Mrs Goodfellow.
- Appropriately trained staff will maintain records and evidence of the impact of the school dog programme.
- The school dog will be included within the school fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of designated staff.

Actions

Any concerns, complaints or issues relating to the school dog must be reported immediately to Mrs Goodfellow or a designated senior leader. All concerns will be investigated and responded to appropriately.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the school maintains a written School Dog Policy. Mrs Goodfellow is responsible for implementation and review of this policy. Staff, pupils, parents and visitors are expected to comply with the procedures set out within this document.

The curriculum will support pupil learning about dogs, safe interaction and responsible behaviour around animals.