



St. Margaret's C of E Primary and Nursery School

School Dog Policy

Written: July 2022

Date for review: July 2025

Head Teacher's signature

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Chair of governor's signature

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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.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment? Yes, there is, although 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 3).

Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Headteacher. This includes social events and parents' evenings. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog to be present.

School Policy

This policy relates solely to the dog 'Bailey' (the school dog), owned by the member of staff, Miss Lung.

- The Governors have the right to refuse entry to any dog.
- Only 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 given specific permission beforehand.
- The school dog is a Cavapoo chosen because it is hypoallergenic breed and is known to be good with children and is very sociable and friendly.
- The Governing Body agree that a school dog may benefit the children and staff of St Margaret's CE School.
- Staff, parents, and children have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. The 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 the dog is ill he will not be allowed into school.
- Bailey has completed 12 weeks of puppy and dog training.
- He is microchipped. The office has a copy of his number.
- Bailey is neutered.
- Bailey will have rest breaks and a working session will be no longer than 45 minutes.
- His timetable is flexible.
- Bailey is treated with positive rewards.
- Bailey has a calm safe space which is his crate.
- 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 a trained adult.
- Children must never be left alone with the dog and there must be always appropriate adult supervision.
- Children should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Children should remain calm around the dog. 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 the dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Children must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog.
- Everyone must wait until Bailey is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
- If the dog is surrounded by many children, 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 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 the dog

is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that situation or environment.

- Children should not eat close to the dog.
- 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.
- Parents will be consulted on allowing their child access to the dog.
- All visitors will be informed about the dog and related protocols on arrival and office staff will relay visitor issues to the Headteacher as soon as possible.
- 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 Miss Lung

Signing in and Fire Drill

Bailey will be signed in every morning on 'entrysign' so we know when he is in school. This will mean his name will be on the printout for a fire alarm.

If Bailey leaves the SSC he will be signed out by use of a book kept on the top of his crate.

One or two nominated staff working in the KS1 area will check to see if Bailey is in his crate in the event of a fire alarm. If it is safe and they cannot see or smell smoke, one of them would go into the SSC, check that Bailey is not in his crate, if he were they would take him out with them, and then leave the building through the SSC.

Actions

If someone reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the Headteacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School. The Headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy. Teachers, staff, pupils, 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.

Appendix 1

Reasons to have a dog in school

In summary, academic research has shown that dogs working and helping in the school environment can achieve the following:

1. Improve academic achievement
2. Increase literacy skills
3. Calming behaviours
4. Increase social skills and self-esteem
5. Increase confidence
6. Teach responsibility and respect to all life
7. Improve attendance
8. Motivate children who are often less attentive

The following information has been taken from a range of sources to provide further detail about the benefits of having a dog in school:

Behaviour

In some schools, dogs are making a difference in the behaviour of pupils. Researchers report that students can identify with animals, and with empathy for the dog, can better understand how classmates may feel. It was found that general aggression went down 62%. Behaviour problems occur in school and these can interfere with learning. Some schools are using dogs to improve behaviour problems by promoting positive behaviour in students. In a controlled study, students were found to have fewer disciplinary referrals in schools with a dog than schools without. Students' behaviour improved toward teachers, and students also showed more confidence and responsibility. Additionally, parents reported that children seemed more interested in school as a result of having a dog at school.

Attendance

Case study: Mandy was a student with poor attendance and truancy. Mandy was encouraged back into school using caring for River, a dog, as an incentive. By telling Mandy that "if she didn't come to school to care for him, he wouldn't get walks, water or love," Mandy came to school almost every day for the rest of the year, only missing two days.

Education

Reading programmes with dogs are doing wonders for some students. Children who might be embarrassed to read aloud to the class or even adults are likely to be less scared to read to a dog. "It might be less stressful for a child to read aloud to a dog than to a teacher or a peer. After all, a dog won't judge or correct you." Dogs are used to encourage struggling readers to practise reading aloud. With the presence of a "calm and well-trained dog," students find social support and peer interaction. Dogs are incredibly calm and happy to have student read to them or join a group of children in the library whilst they are having a book reading session. Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial to struggling, emerging readers. The dogs also provide confidence to children as they do not make fun of them when they read, but above all they make amazing listeners, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love. Research has proved that students who read to dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write, and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the students they mix with.

Social Development

Dogs in school offer an opportunity for improving social development. They are especially useful for teaching students' social skills and responsibility. Specifically, schools are using dogs to help older students build self-esteem; learn about positive and negative reinforcement, responsibility, and boundaries. Older students use dogs to help communicate, teach kindness, and empower students. With a dog in school, students have the opportunity to learn how to care for the animal. This includes walking and grooming. Researchers report that involving students in the daily care of classroom dogs is a positive experience, promoting their own daily care. The students also learn about responsibility, caring, and sharing when helping each other take care of a dog at school.

As a reward

Dogs will be gentle and loving, but at the same time full of fun and enjoyment for the students. Those students who have performed incredibly well during the week or those who have made progress in a certain subject, or those who have achieved tasks set for them, will be rewarded with spending time during lunch or break to interact with these dogs. Walking, grooming, playing and training are some of the responsibility's students will be allowed to undertake. It has been proved that working and playing with a dog improves children's social skills and self-esteem.

Support Dogs can work with students on a one-one basis and will especially help those students who have been bullied, abused, going through upsetting/difficult times or even scared/phobic of dogs. The dog will bring much joy and help to all the students they meet and are happy to provide plenty of hugs to the

students they are spending time with. Students who struggle with social interaction can find a reassuring friend in a dog.

Appendix 2

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q Who is the legal owner of the school dog and who pays for its costs?

A The legal owner of the school dog is Miss Lung; she will bear the costs associated with owning the dog; the school budget will support insurance costs.

Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder?

A Yes. Bailey is from a home where both parents were seen and has been specifically chosen for its temperament.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A Bailey will be kept in the SSC (Special Support Centre), which is separate from the classrooms / playground area to ensure he only comes into contact with children who are happy to have contact, under strict supervision. Bailey will only be in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Q Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

A Yes, we have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources, including other schools that successfully have a school dog and a reputable dog behaviourist.

Q Who is responsible for training?

A Miss Lung is the legal owner of Bailey. Bailey has already attended puppy training classes.

Q How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?

A In the interest of health and hygiene Bailey will be toileted when taken out for short walks in the grounds. Only staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A Bailey will be walked regularly and given free time outside. Bailey will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to water. We will work carefully to ensure the dog's welfare is always considered.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A Bailey is a hypoallergenic dog. Children will not need to touch the dog, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies.

Q My child is frightened of dogs; how will you manage this?

A Access to Bailey is carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have close contact with him unless permission for this has been given. We hope to work closely with parents of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this.

Appendix 3

School Dog Risk Assessment

Completed by: Jill Hine **Version:** 1 **Date:** June 2022 **Review date:** June 2023

What are the hazards relating to this task	Who can be harmed?	What are you already doing?	Additional control measures to be implemented
A hazard is something with the potential to cause harm e.g. slip trip fall	e.g. staff, customers, visitors, volunteers, students on work experience, trespassers	Identify the control measures are already in place and insert below:	Identify any additional controls to be implemented to reduce the risk. is necessary?
Dog excrement & urine	Staff and pupils – illness, slips and falls		Bailey will be wormed, vaccinated and kept free of fleas, ticks etc. If Bailey has had diarrhoea will not be in school for 48 hours. Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly of responsibly and hygienically. Hand cleansing facilities made available close to where Bailey will be kept containing poo bags/plastic bags, kitchen roll, antibacterial spray, rubber gloves will be available. Bailey will be exercised regularly.
Scratches, Bailey Bite	Staff and pupils – scratches and bites		Bailey is very sociable and good natured and adequately trained. Pupils and staff should all be made aware of the procedures and etiquette and handling the Bailey, which will always be under supervision, to ensure risk is minimised. There will be no unsupervised contact with pupils. Bailey will be closely supervised and kept under control when out of his crate.
Allergic Reaction to Bailey	Staff and pupils – allergic reaction		Communication with parents re possible pupil allergies Bailey to be kept clean and well groomed. Bailey bed in cage/crate in offices and baby gate on office door to ensure no accidental contamination or encounters with visitors.

			Signs to be put up warning of Bailey presence and any expected procedures can be avoided if necessary Offices to be kept well ventilated. Bailey bedding and equipment washed and kept to a high standard. Regular vacuuming and cleaning of office. Hand cleansing facilities and first aid kit should be located near office.
Noise, barking	Pupils who cannot cope with noise Disruption to lessons		As Bailey will be introduced to the school at an early age he will become used to a noisy environment so the risk of barking should be greatly minimised. If necessary he will be removed from the situation that is causing him to bark.
Fire Drill, evacuation of Bailey			Bailey will be logged on 'entry sign' when he is in school. In the event of a fire his name will be printed out along with all staff. He will be name checked in the muster area. A sign in/ out book will be kept on top of Bailey's crate. A clear evacuation exit is planned for Bailey and a named member of staff will see if he has gone from his crate. He will not be left in a locked room. Bailey will be under the supervision of a member of staff at all times

Review date	By Whom	Date shared with staff
Comments/amendments		



Appendix 4



Pet Business Insurance

INSURANCE CONFIRMATION

This is to certify that

Ms Joanna Lung

<p>St. Margarets C Of E Primary 5 The Mardens Crawley RH11 0AQ</p>	<p>Client Reference: LUJX09PB01 Policy Number: ACE014994</p>
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Is covered by Pet Business Insurance for Pet Visits

For the Period From 29 June 2022 to 28 June 2023

Cover	Limit of Indemnity
Public Liability	£2,000,000

Signed:  29 June 2022

Pet Business Insurance

This is only a summary of your cover and for full cover details please refer to your Insurance Schedule and Insurance Product Information Document.

Plumton Hall, Whepstead, Bury St Edmunds IP29 4SU
Tel: 01284 736 874 Fax: 01284 736 881 Email: info@petbusinessinsurance.co.uk
Pet Business Insurance is the trading name of LRMS Insurance Services Ltd (Reg Nr. 343 8163)
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Appendix 5

Bailey's Handling Guide



Timetable

Like SENDCos, Bailey needs his rest. Please stick to the timetable on the door of the SSC. If Bailey is scheduled for rest, please do not take him for a walk or play with him.

Signing-in and out

A sign out sheet is next to the sink in the SSC.

Adults *must* sign out and in, each time Bailey leaves or returns to the SSC.

Walkies Equipment

All Bailey's equipment is next to the SSC sink.

For Walkies, Bailey must have on:

- Harness
- Lead
- A couple of treats. Don't let him see you with them.
- Poo bags.

Walkies Rules

Dont:

- Let him go near playground equipment. (He may wee on it)
- Let him off his lead at any time.
- Have him on wet and muddy grass.
- **Have more than 2 children.**
- **Let children walk him on their own - they must be accompanied by an adult.**

Do:

- Keep him in the shade, if it's hot.
- Dry his paws off, if he comes in wet. (He'll need his treats for bribes.) Must be an adult to wipe his paws.

Holding the Lead



NO



YES

If Bailey is too Excited,

- Adults and children try to remain calm.
- Say with a clear voice “No”.
- If he then walks nicely, reinforce with “Good boy” or “well done”.
- If he gets over excited and tries to jump up and bite his lead/people, please ensure the adult puts Bailey on a short lead and keeps away from the children.
- Please ignore him until he calms i.e. all four paws are on the floor, and he is no longer jumping/biting.
- If he becomes excited again, he will need to go immediately back to his crate. ● If he catches anyone with his teeth, he will need to go immediately back to his crate. Please inform Billy as soon as possible.
- When he does calm down, tell him “well done” or “good boy”.
- If Bailey pulls hard on the lead (e.g. to chase a bird!), pull back on the lead, and stand still. Do not run with him.

Poop

The adult needs to pick up Bailey’s poo. Not the children.

Poo to go in an outside bin, which is not full. Please do not use an inside bin.

Transferring Into Crate

The harness and lead need to come off before going into crate

Allow him to have a drink of water before going in.

He is to only be bribed with a treat if he does not go in willingly.

Make sure the blanket goes over the crate, but leave the door uncovered.

Coming off the Lead

Bailey should never be off the lead outside of the SSC.

If the lead's being held properly (see above), it's unlikely that he'll come off the lead unintentionally.

If he does come off the lead:

- Adults and children to remain calm and stand still.
- Do not chase him.
- Adult produces a treat from pocket and says: "Bailey, come".
- If he does not come after a few attempts, the adult must send a child to get Miss Lung.
- When he does come, the adult puts their foot on the lead to secure it before picking it up.

Playing in the SSC

- Bailey can come off his lead and out of his crate in the SSC only. Please make sure the doors are shut before allowing him to come off his lead.
- He does not need a harness or lead whilst in the SSC.
- Please ensure that Bailey's toys are left on the ground, otherwise he may jump up or on the child(ren) by accident.
- Please keep his playtime sessions short to about 10 minutes.
- If the adult sees he's too excited, put the toys away, and slowly put treats onto the floor to calm him down. Please refer to the 'If Bailey gets too excited' section on how to calm him down.