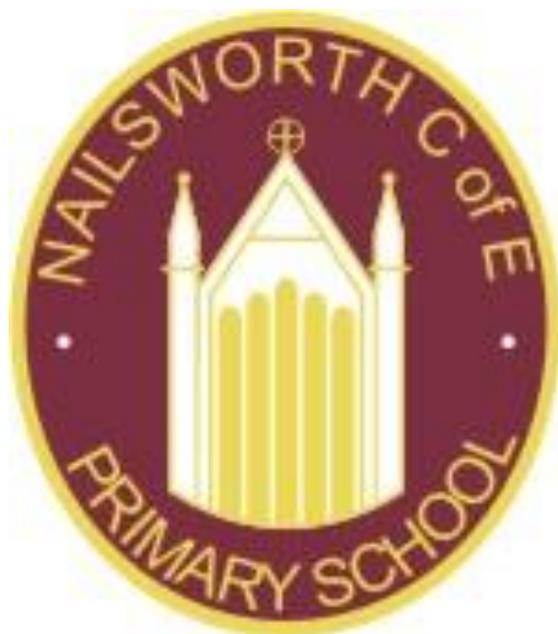


## Policy Statement for

# A School Dog



Policies to refer to and cross reference: First Aid and Medication

Change History Review every 2 years	Summary of Key Changes	Author
Jan 2020	Policy published	EG

## 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. (See Appendix 1)

## Risks associated with bringing a dog into a school environment

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 Head. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the dog to be present on the school premises. A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about having a dog on a school site is available in this document. (See appendix 2)

## Context

- Mrs. Ostle owns the dog, a toy poodle named Beau.
- Mrs. Ostle will pay veterinary costs.
- The dog has been chosen for its temperament, intelligence and non-moulting coat.
- The Headteacher, staff and Governors, have agreed that school Dog would bring many benefits to Nailsworth C of E Primary School.
- The risk assessment (appendix 3) is reviewed biennially.
- Visitors and students will be informed of the dog at reception.

## Management on a day-to-day basis

### The dog will:

- Be kept on a short lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk where appropriate.
- Be under the full control and supervision of an adult at all times
- Be fully trained to a cage and a mat
- Have had all injections prior to joining Nailsworth.
- Never be taken off the site by pupils without adult supervision.
- Not be allowed into school if unwell.

### Pupils will:

- Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog every time they meet him.
- Always be reminded to respect the dog and remain calm around it.
- Be gentle and not make sudden movements.
- Always approach the dog standing up.
- Learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language.
- Not stare into a dog's eyes as this could be interpreted as a threat.
- Not put their face near a dog.
- Not have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with, the dog.
- Not disturb the dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Not eat close to the dog and never feed the dog.

Owner:	Standards Committee	Delegated To	Head / Dep Head
Review Frequency	Every 2 years	Updated	Jan 2020
		Date ratified by Governing body	21/1/20
Version	2	Next Review	Jan 2022
Review Author	E Geller	Published on Website	Yes

### Protocol to be followed should the dog be hurt by children or other incident

- The accompanying adult will remove the dog calmly from the situation.
- The dog will be returned to its area of comfort to be assessed by the head and removed from site if necessary.
- Parents will be informed if necessary.
- The dog will be taken to the vet if necessary.
- SLT will conduct an investigation into the circumstances.

Growling or baring of teeth indicates that the dog is feeling angry or threatened. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between his legs, hiding behind his 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.

### Health and Safety Principles

Children will always wash their hands after handling the dog. Any dog foul will be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by the dog's owner.

### Should a bite (even playful) occur:

- 1) Parents will be contacted immediately.
- 2) Any wound will be cleaned by running it under warm water for a few minutes with bleeding encouraged to clean the wound and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing.
- 3) The child/adult will be released for a medical attention.
- 4) All staff will be informed.
- 5) A full investigation into the circumstances will be led by the SLT.
- 6) The suitability of the dog will be re-assessed by the Governors.

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## 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) Encourage calming behaviours
- 4) Increase social skills and self-esteem
- 5) Increase confidence
- 6) Teach responsibility and respect to all life
- 7) Help prevent school refusing
- 8) Motivate children who are often less attentive

### 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, 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 2. School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Q. Can anyone bring a dog onto the school grounds?**

A. No. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Head. This includes drop off and collection times.

### **Q. Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs?**

A. The legal owner of the dog will be Mrs. Ostle. She will bear the costs associated with owning the dog.

### **Q. Is the dog from a reputable breeder?**

A. Yes. The dog is from a home where both parents were seen and he has been specifically chosen for his temperament.

### **Q. Will the dog be a distraction?**

A. The dog will only encounter children who are happy to have contact and have parental permission for this, under strict supervision. Parental permission will be obtained through an opt-out letter.

### **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.

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**Q. Who is responsible for training?**

A. Mrs. Ostle will be the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for its training. Appropriate professional training has been obtained.

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

A. In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted when taken out for short walks Mrs. Ostle will clear away any mess appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed. Our policy of no dogs in the playground is still applicable as we are unable to put effective control measures in place that guarantee temperament and safety when children come into unsupervised contact with unknown dogs.

**Q. How will the dog’s welfare be considered?**

A. The dog will be walked regularly and given free time outside. We will work carefully to ensure the dog’s welfare is always considered.

**Q. How will this be managed where children have allergies?**

A. Children will not need to touch the dog, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies. The breed of dog is known for minimal moulting, he is given a high quality food and regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.

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

A. Access to the dog is carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have close contact with it 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.

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### Appendix 3: Beau Risk Assessment

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1 – 5*	Action
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to the ground. Child scratched by dog. Child bitten by dog.	1 3 5	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises. Children will always be left supervised with the dog. The dog will always be on a lead or carried when he is not in his crate or basket, Pupils will be taught about how to behave around a dog and the consequences of their actions. Education of this nature will be given to children through assemblies and PSHE sessions and group work as well as informally.
The dog causing allergies.	Children or staff have allergic reactions	1	Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school. A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will kept on the school SIMs system. The 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 will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	1	Should the dog defecate on the school site, Mrs. Ostle will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way. The area will be disinfected as required. All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the advice of the Vet. Flea treatment is carried out at 6-week intervals. The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at mealtime and never in a food preparation area.
Claim is made against school about the dog.	School not adequately covered financially.	1	Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in office and renewed annually.

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