



Charlestown
Primary School



Dogs in School Policy

Version Number	V1
Date Adopted by Governors	28 th March 2023
Scheduled Review Date	Spring 2025
Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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Introduction

Current research is suggesting that a 'companion' animal in school can make a difference to the wellbeing of both staff and pupils. With this in mind, Charlestown Primary School has become the daytime home for Freddie, a Labrador cross dog. He currently visits once a week when Mrs Poole (Assistant HT and Freddie's owner) is in school.

The rationale behind this decision was as follows:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow for the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits.

In order for Freddie to be successfully and safely integrated into the life of the school, a risk assessment has been undertaken and is outlined below. The safety of children and Freddie are paramount. We must also ensure that a dog in school can have as natural a life as possible while in the school building.

The following precautions have been undertaken:

1. Research into the most appropriate breed indicates that Labrador cross are well suited to working and playing with children.
2. Freddie lives in a house with 2 children (aged 3 and 1) and is therefore used to interacting with young children.
3. The dog is regularly groomed and checked for any infections or illnesses.
4. Visits to the vet take place regularly and she will have all necessary inoculations.
5. Freddie is wormed every three-six months.
6. Freddie's claws are trimmed to reduce the risk of scratching.
7. He has plenty of exercise. He is exercised before working with children.

Work is also being undertaken to ensure that children know how to approach dogs and how to behave when dogs are around.

Freddie lives with Mrs Poole when not at school and she will ensure that Freddie is healthy and fit to be in school at all times. He is registered with a vet in Wadebridge and is up to date (and will be kept up to date) with immunisations and worming.

We appreciate that not all families and children are comfortable with dogs and will respect parental wishes for any child not to come into direct contact with Freddie. Please notify the office if this is the case.

Freddie and his owner will be expected to adopt the same cleanliness and policies as all other dogs on the school site. He will be on a lead when with children except in controlled supervised circumstances. He will not be allowed to toilet anywhere on the playground area and any 'mess' will be cleaned up and safely disposed of.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children, but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with Freddie is invited to inform Mrs Poole of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with the dog as the vet will be responsible for vaccinations, including rabies and completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. Freddie is also insured and has been through Pets for Therapy training along with Mrs Poole. Both are accredited through this scheme.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff and the governing body.

Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how	Step 3 Controls already in place	Step 4 Rate risk (1 – 5) *	Step 5 Rate likelihood of occurrence (1 – 5) **
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to the ground	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.	1	2
	Child scratched by dog	Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.	1	2
	Child bitten by dog	The dog will always be on a lead when she is not in her assigned resting area (offices of: Mrs Poole, Miss Burnett, Mrs Munley or Mrs Sanders), except when working specifically with a group of children.	3	1
		<p>Children will be taught how to handle themselves around dogs in order to prevent behaviour that might over-excite (i.e. quiet voices, not running or jumping)</p> <p>Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them (i.e. stand still, cross arms)</p> <p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or mouth the children.</p>		

		<p>Pupils have been, and continue to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children and forms part of the ethos of the school.</p> <p>The dog has been socialised with other dogs, adults and with children of all ages.</p> <p>The dog lives in a home with children.</p> <p>ALL staff members have information regarding the correct way to handle the dog, and have been introduced to her and the expectations (do's and don'ts) of having a school dog.</p> <p>The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment. This training will include future therapy or reading sessions to involve the school dog can be done in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <p>The dog will continue to have reinforcement of positive training strategies throughout the week.</p> <p>The dog will attend the vets regularly to ensure she is in good health and that her claws are kept short</p>		
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<p>The dog gets loose from her lead or rest areas</p>		<p>The dog will be kept mostly in Mrs Poole’s office during the day where she has plenty of space to walk around. If the dog is loose, a designated member of staff will come and put the dog back into its school home. Children will be taught how to react if the dog is loose in order to prevent jumping. The designated members of staff who will be called upon if the dog gets loose or needs attention are: 1. Mrs Poole 2. Miss Burnett 3. Mr Clutsom</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
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		<p>4. Mrs Munley</p>		
<p>Dog hair causing allergic reaction</p>	<p>Children have allergic reactions</p>	<p>Breed of dog (Labrador) has been chosen for increased probability of having both no-shedding hypoallergenic DNA. Dog is groomed regularly to maintain high probability of no-shedding. 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. 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</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>Children getting germs from the dog</p>	<p>Children / staff will contract diseases carried by dogs</p>	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school, site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. This will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>Children will be taught (and supervised) to wash hands after each interaction with the dog.</p> <p>The dog will be walked offsite for toileting.</p> <p>All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and the Head Teacher keeps a register of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals.</p> <p>Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals up to 1 year and 6 monthly intervals thereafter.</p> <p>The dog will not go in the school dining hall at meal times; she will not be permitted into the food</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>
		<p>preparation area of the kitchen.</p>		
<p>Dog becoming anxious or tired</p>	<p>Dog becomes irritable or distressed</p>	<p>Safe space in offices outlined above for “quiet time”.</p> <p>Dog not to be disturbed when in this space.</p> <p>When dog is sleeping it will not be woken unless an emergency, which will be</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

		prompted by identified members of staff.		
Fire alarm	Dog being left in building	Dog has practised fire alarm procedure to recognise alarm sound. Key member of staff will be responsible for removing dog from the building in each area. Dog will be signed in as a member of staff so Fire Marshalls know when he is on site.	1	1
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 Poole, and she is financially responsible for all his care and day to day costs. The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Poole outside of school hours.	1	1
Claim is made against school regarding behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in the school office and renewed yearly.	1	1

Risk (1 – 5) * KEY: 1 – low; 2/3 – medium; 4 – major; 5 - high

Likelihood (1 – 5) ** KEY: 1 – improbable; 2 – remote; 3 – possible; 4 – probable; 5 - likely