Misterton Primary and Nursery School

Dog Policy

Adopted: September 2026
Review date: September 2027

Introduction

Children can benefit educationally and emotional, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills, through contact with a suitable, calm dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals. By having a GEORGE - our SCHOOL DOG', we want to encourage those children who are vulnerable, or those less confident at reading to have a friendly audience and look forward to reading as a treat. Children who need support with mental health and wellbeing will have time to benefit from the calming effect a dog has. Children with punctuality issues will have specific tasks to encourage them to be in school for the dog. The breed of schnauzer, is carefully selected as suitable for this type of environment. George is well cared for and responsibly owned by the School Head Teacher, Mrs Cappleman-Jackson.



Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

This policy shows that we have thought carefully about school life with a dog and how, through careful management, there is a very low risk of harm.

Context

- George will be owned by Mrs Cappleman-Jackson
- Veterinary costs will be cover by the owner
- George is a miniature schnauzer, chosen for his very mild temperament and non-molting coat. George is a hypoallergenic dog.
- The risk assessment (attached) will be reviewed annually
- Visitor and new pupils will be informed of the dog on arrival

Management day-to-day.

George will:

- Not be allowed in school if he is unwell
- Not be outside in adverse weather conditions
- Be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk
- Be under the full control and supervision of an adult at all times
- Be fully trained to a bed
- Have had all injections prior to joining the school

(George's wellbeing will be monitored through the Dog Welfare and Wellbeing

Standard)

Pupils will:

- NOT have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with George
- Meet George in a group of no more than three children
    - Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around George every time they meet him
    - Always remain calm
    - Be gentle
    - Do not put your face near George's
    - Do not disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping
    - Always approach George standing up
    - Do not feed the dog unless directed to give dog treats
    - Learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicates that the dog feels threatened or angry. 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 George is displaying any of these signs, he should immediately be removed from that particular situation or environment.

Health and Safety Principles

George is now an old dog and he has epilepsy. This is successfully controlled by medication which is always locked in Mrs. Cappleman-Jackson's office.

Children will always wash their hands or use alcohol gel after handling the dog.

Any dog foul will be cleared up immediately and disposed of appropriately by the adult in charge of George at the time. Children must never be allowed to do this.

Should a bite occur (even playfully):

1. Parents will be contacted immediately

2. The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing
3. The child/adult will be released for medical attention
4. All staff will be informed
5. A full investigation will take place
6. The suitability of having a dog will be reassessed by the Governing Body

This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

It was adopted/ratified by our school's Governing Body on the 10th March 2020

Signature of the Chair of Governors (Mrs Jill Fairbank): _____

Signature of the Headteacher (Mrs Jane Cappleman-Jackson): _____

Review Date: September 2020 Next Review Date: September 2021

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR:	School Dog	
Establishment: Misterton Primary	**Assessment by:** **Jane Cappleman-Jackson**	**Date:** **25th November 2021**

Task/activity		Who is at risk	Hazard identification	Current controls	**Severity** 1 nil 2 low 3 medium 4 major 5 high	**Probability** 1 improbable 2 remote 3 possible 4 probable 5 likely	**Current risk rating** Severity x probability 1-10 low 11-15 medium 16-25 high
1.a	Hygiene	Pupils	Children coming into contact with dog feaces	Dog walked & toileted where possible outside of school grounds before allowing on to designated area (grassed area near potting shed), feaces removed in poop bag.	3	2	6
b		Pupils/staff	Contact with dog sick	JCJ to clean sick up wearing gloves, using paper, specific cloth and disinfectant.	2	3	6
c		pupils	Stroking/contact with dog and touching mouth or food	Children reminded to wash hands by staff supervising dog. Hand sanitizer gel available in all classrooms & offices etc. Establish routines and procedures for children to learn need for hand washing.	2	4	8
d		Pupils/staff	Fleas ,ticks, worms etc	Dog regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention, JCJ to closely monitor, health visits to vets and vaccinations undertaken, JCJ responsible for.	3	3	9
2	Scratched	Pupils/staff	Dog over excited in	Dog kept on lead at all times	2	3	6

			play or jumping up	outside office area. Children to pat dog when he/she is stood or sat still. Dog supervised by staff at all times. Dog to be encouraged not to jump up. Dog interaction: rules to be in place and children to be made aware of how to handle correctly reinforced by other staff. Dogs nails clipped regularly			
3	Asthmatic/allergic reaction	Pupils/staff /visitors	Allergic reaction after contact with dog	The dog is a low to non-shedding breed therefore allergic reactions should be minimal. Letter sent out to all parents advising of School dog, parental consent form issued with letter and opportunity to advise of any allergies. Children to wash hands after contact with dog. Dog bedding regularly washed to reduce dust. Visitors advised dog is in the HT office and removed if requested. All parents aware dog is in school through regular inclusion in newsletter and detailed on school website.	3	3	9
4	Dog unwell	Pupils/Staff	Dog 'cranky'/bad mood	If unwell dog not to be in school.	2	3	6
5	Dog phobia	Pupils/visitors	Distress caused through close proximity to dog	Advise visitors and remove if necessary. Signs in school entrance advising of dog presence. Staff to supervise dog at all times and be sensitive to all children's reactions. Parental consent form will be necessary for close contact.	2	2	4

				Parents could be offered a programme of support for child to help overcome aversion. Breed of dog selected for gentle, temperament. Dog will be made identifiable when around the premises. The children will know when the dog is in school and where the dog is throughout the day.			
6	Dog bite	Pupils/staff/visitor	Dog bites someone	JCJ and staff to regularly monitor dog's temperament, behaviour and mood. JCJ to supervise dog at all times and keep on a lead. Dog interaction: rules taught to all children by JCJ & other staff involved. Dog undergone training to have no mouth/teeth contact and to respond to command "no". Children and staff aware to firmly state "no" if any mouth contact made and to withdraw any contact with dog. Breed of dog selected for gentle temperament and well socialized around children of all ages as a puppy.	3	3	9
7	Transitioning a dog into a school setting	Pupils/ staff/ visitors / Dog	Dog under stress from change of environment	JCJ will plan a flexible transition in to school for the dog, following the Bark and Read Dog Welfare Standards	2	2	4