

HINGUAR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Pets and Dogs in School Policy

This policy was approved by the Governors in Spring 2024. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis

"Hinguar Primary School and Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment."

Rationale and Aim: 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. It is a risk that needs to be managed. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out (see Appendix 1). Frequently asked questions can be found in Appendix 2.

Policy

- During the school day, Scruff will be based in the office areas. Pupils will not be allowed access to him unless consent is given by parent/guardian and it is for a specific pastoral intervention.
- The dog is a Border Terrier. He was chosen because it is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with children. He is very sociable and friendly.
- Staff, parents and children have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. A risk assessment has been produced 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. The school will ensure that the dog is kept separate from these children. (See Risk Assessment).
- If the dog is ill, he will not be allowed into school.
- The dog will be kept on a lead when moving around the school site or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an adult.
- Children must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- 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 Scruff is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him. Hands must be washed after coming in contact with Scruff.
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of children, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore, the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation. Groups of no more than 3-5 at any given time so that he doesn't feel overwhelmed. Scruff will not go on the playground at playtimes.
- 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 particular situation or environment. Children should not eat close to the dog.

- Children should be careful to stroke Scruff on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head. Children will be reminded of this directly before interacting with the dog.
- 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 children access to the dog and will sign permission forms if they wish for this intervention to occur.
- All visitors will be informed about the dog and related protocols on arrival and office staff will relay visitor issues to the Headteacher ASAP.
- A member of SLT 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 the adult he is with at the time of an evacuation.
- If someone reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the Head Teacher.
- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in school.
- Everyone is responsible for implementing this policy.
- Our assemblies 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.

Please see the following appendices for more information. APPENDIX 1 – Risk Assessment

3. Monitoring and Evaluation:

The effectiveness of this policy will be regularly monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.

4. Implementation and Review:

This policy will be circulated to all Hinguar Primary School and Nursery staff and published on the school website for parent/carers information.

The policy will be reviewed annually. sensitive touch and to help them to be calm and promotes provides tactile stimulation.

Appendix 1

Dogs in schools risk assessment

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Bites, scratches or illness caused by the dog	Staff, pupils and staffs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas• Dogs are regularly groomed before they visit• All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs• Staffs clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely – pupils are told to stay away• Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas	
Allergies	Staff and pupils	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We seek parental permission for children to interact with dogs• Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies	
Phobias	Staff and pupils	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We inform the parents of the day the dog will be on site.• Contact with dogs is optional• Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia with parents / pupil permission	

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and staffs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff remain with dogs at all times • Staff speak to school staff in advance and make sure the area and activity is safe • We check with the staff and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once • Staff clean up urine and faeces • School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs • We set a time limit on activities as recommended by staffs, so dogs do not get tired 	
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and staffs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all time during the visit • School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs 	
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs remain on a lead when travelling around the school • Dogs are kept in secured rooms. • Staff bring suitable toys if necessary 	

Appendix 2

School Dog **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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 Waite who will care for the dog out of school hours and will bear the costs associated with it; the school budget will remain unaffected.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A. The dog will be kept in an office area. We will be careful to ensure that time spent with the school dog is shared among the children fairly. We will also ensure that children who are not involved in regular, direct contact with the dog are still able to participate in several ways, should they wish to do so.

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 dog on site. There is also a School Dog Policy available to view on the Website.

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 in a sectioned off area of the school site where children have no access. Thus, there will be no chance of the children encountering faeces. 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. As the dog grows, he will be walked in the mornings and come to school afterwards by school staff who live locally. The dog will be kept in an Office area and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. The dog will be carefully trained over a period and will have unlimited access to water. We will work closely with other professionals to ensure the dog's welfare is always carefully considered.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A. 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.

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 regular, 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.