

School Dog Policy



Review: Spring Term 2023

Next Review: Spring Term 2024

School dogs are now used more widely in schools for therapeutic reasons. They can be used to help children calm down, help anxious pupils to talk about their worries as well as being a reward for pupils to spend time with an animal.

Coco was introduced to the school in July 2021. She is a 2 year old Bichon Frise and belongs to Mrs Hedger who is a Teaching Assistant in Red Kite Class.

All parents were written to and asked to inform the school of any phobias or allergies. Pupils were also involved in writing this policy. A Risk Assessment was carried out by the Headteacher. The Risk Assessment be reviewed annually alongside this policy.

School Responsibilities to Pupils

- The school will ensure that parents of all pupils will be informed of the use of Coco.
- The school will ask parents for information on allergies or phobias of dogs.
- Coco the dog will only be used when there is a school adult present.
- School adults who wish to use Coco will book this with the Headteacher and in her absence with the owner.

School Responsibilities to Coco

- The school will ensure that Coco has a quiet space to relax when she is not working with children, this will be in the Headteacher's Office.
- Coco will have access to water and a dog bed.
- Coco will be fed at lunchtime by either the Headteacher or Coco's owner
- Coco will not work with pupils who could be a risk to Coco.
- Pupils will be taught how to conduct themselves when they are around Coco.

Owner Responsibilities to the School

- The owner will ensure that Coco's vaccinations are up to date.
- The owner will ensure that Coco's worming and flea treatments are up to date.
- The owner will not bring Coco into school if she is unwell.
- The owner will ensure that Coco has a dog bed and collar and lead in school.
- The owner will give Coco a walk break during the day to allow her to go to the toilet.

Success Criteria

We will know that this policy is being implemented successfully when:

- Coco contributes to the learning and wellbeing of pupils.

- Pupils know how to conduct themselves when around Coco.
- Coco is confident and happy to be in school.