



Old Buckenham
Primary School

Abbey Road, Old Buckenham, Attleborough, Norfolk. NR17 1RH

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Humphrey - Head of School: Miss A Cockburn

Telephone: 01953 860380 Fax: 01953 860952

Website: www.oldbuckenham-pri.norfolk.sch.uk Twitter: @OldBuckenhamPri

School Dog Policy

June 2018

School Dog Policy			
Review Frequency:	At least annually	Review Date:	April 2019
Governing Committee Responsible:		Pupils, SLT, Mr Grass	
Governor Approval:	TBD	Website:	Yes
Staff Responsible:	Mr.Grass	Date produced:	June 2018



CD DOG TRAINING
The positive approach



BrecklandDogTraining



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Background

The senior leadership team, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and members of staff at Old Buckenham Primary School, have considered the possibility of having a school dog from September 18, to July 19. The underlying reason for considering this was led by a school governor, who having read articles and knowing of a relative who has a school dog brought the possibility to the attention of the schools SEND lead. The research regarding a school dog has found there to be considerable benefits and advantages to both pupils and the wider community. The findings were that schools who have a School Dog can assist in:

- Teaching responsibility and respect;
- Teaching empathy, non-violence and in some cases how to love and have patience;
- Motivating children who are not that attentive;
- Increasing social skills and self-esteem;
- Increasing confidence around dogs in general;
- Improvement in attendance rates;
- Helping to calm behaviour – both in classrooms and in a 1:1 situation;
- Increasing literacy skills – children begin to enjoy reading and want to read aloud

It is recognised that animals are not generally allowed in either the school building or grounds, unless a full risk assessment has been undertaken, that takes into account the behaviour and characteristics of the animal(s). This is the reason why dogs belonging to parents and carers are not allowed on the school site. A full risk assessment will be undertaken for the School dog/puppy, this risk assessment would be reviewed once the puppy was introduced to school, and then again on a regular basis.

It is accepted that interacting with a dog may not be appropriate for all children, but that for the majority it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parents or carer who would not wish for their child to interact with the dog/puppy would be asked to inform the school of their wishes. The school would then ensure the wishes were taken into account and that these children would not have any contact with the dog at any time and a list of names would be kept in the school office.

Context



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The dog will:

- Be jointly owned by the school and Mr Grass (whichever is preferred by the governing body).
- Be introduced to the school as a puppy and will 'grow' up with Mr Grass in school.
- 'Live' in the front office area, where it will have its bed, water, etc.
- Always be kept on a lead when moving around school.
- Have a dedicated area to relieve itself in an area that children cannot access.
- Costs associated with the dog will be shared between the school and Mr Grass.

Purchase Price	£800 (School)
Puppy Training	£75 - £100 (School)
Insurance	£35 - £70 (Mr Grass)
Neutering	£145 (School)
Food and Grooming	£700 (Mr Grass)
School bed, crate, lead, and bowls.	£200 (School)
Initial Vaccinations	£60-£100 (School)

- Visitors and pupils will be informed of times when the dog is present.
- Parents and carers will be asked whether they wish their child(ren) to have contact with the dog. A list of children who do not wish to interact with the dog will be kept by Mr Grass and the office.

The role of the school dog

First 6 months:

- During this time, the dog will be socialised by Mr Grass and will learn basic commands through positive reinforcement training.
- At the same time, Mr Grass or other suitable members of staff will run programmes for the children in year 1 upwards, teaching suitable interaction with the school puppy and dogs in general.
- Those children that have been given permission by their parents, may as the dog gets older have basic interaction with the dog, albeit constantly supervised. This may form part of a reward system, or if an entire class has permission to spend time with the dog, Mr Grass may visit their classes occasionally.

6 to 12 months:



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- Mr Grass may run a lunch/breaktime club where a handful of children will be allowed to walk with him and the dog (although the dog may need to relieve itself prior to walking). He would ensure that all children who would like to do this are given a 'fair' opportunity to do so.
- The dog would continue its command training with Mr Grass, ensuring the continued suitability for the School Dog role.

12 to 24 months:

- Begin interactive work with pupils, listening to readers etc.
- Continued assessment and involvement with pupils in a small group scenario

It will be a requirement that the dog:

- Is regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Is diagnosed and treated by a vet if it is ill.
- Receives regular inoculations.
- Is wormed at the interval recommended by the Vet.
- Has its claws trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches.
- Be exercised before being allowed to work with children.

Management day to day

It will be a requirement of the handler/owner to ensure that:

- The dog is physically fit before visiting the school environment
- The dog is kept on a lead when moving through or around the school during normal school hours. The dog may be off the lead when penned in a suitable area and during direct training.
- The dog is supervised at all times.
- The dog is discouraged from jumping, scratching and licking;
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard, i.e. not muddy, wet etc.
- Natural relief for the dog is taken in the designated area only, where pupils do not access. Waste will be disposed of by the handler, in bags deposited in a designated bin.

Pupils will:



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- Never have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with the dog.
- Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog as part of an education programme run by Mr Grass. Appropriate behaviours are:
 1. Always remain calm around the dog
 2. Don't make sudden movements and be gentle
 3. Always approach the dog standing up
 4. Do not approach the dog when it is sleeping or eating
 5. Don't put your face near the dog
 6. Don't stare into the dogs eyes as this can be interpreted as a threat
 7. Do not eat close to the dog and never feed the dog

- Learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling threatened or angry. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling being signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog ever displays these warning signs it will be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Be informed of the following health and safety principles:
 1. Always wash their hands after handling the dog
 2. Any dog 'mess' will be cleaned up immediately by Mr Grass (or other suitable adult). This must never be done by children.

Should a bite (even playful) ever occur:

1. Parents or carers 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. The dog will be removed from direct contact with any child pending the outcome of a full investigation and reassessment.
6. A full investigation into the circumstances will be led by the Head of School.
7. The suitability of the dog will be re-assessed by the Head of School, Governing Body and if appropriate a suitable outside agency.