



At Claypool everyone is valued, inspired and nurtured on their individual journey of success.

Dog in School Policy

Policy lead: A. Hulme

Written by the Policy Lead	Autumn 2023
Ratified by the Curriculum and Inclusion Committee	Autumn 2022

Last interim review by the Policy Lead	Autumn 2025
Last full review by the Policies Committee	Spring 2025

Next interim review by the Policy Lead	Autumn 2026
Next full review by the Policies Committee	Autumn 2028

Introduction

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.

The dog (Russell) is owned by Amanda Hulme. Russell is a Yorkiepoo chosen for his mild temperament, intelligence and non-moulting coat. A. Hulme will be responsible for Russell's regular visits to the vets for health checks and vaccinations.

The Governing Body agree that a school dog may benefit the children and staff of Claypool Primary School.

Guidelines

Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, and parents/carers have been informed via ParentApp that Russell will be in school at various points during the week. A risk assessment is in place and will be reviewed termly.

Only the school dog is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless they are a known therapy or assistance dog and the Headteacher has given specific permission beforehand.

In the event of an emergency evacuation the adult working with Russell, will take him to the Fire Evacuation point.

Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must remain at a manageable distance. All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in school. Parents are able to inform the school of any allergies on admission. If Russell is unwell, he will not be brought into school.

Russell will normally be kept on a lead and harness when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an adult.

There may be occasions when the dog is working off lead, but this will only happen in an enclosed space and under the control of an adult. Before removing the lead, all present will be consulted. Students will never be left alone with Russell and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with children.

Behaviour of children

Children should be reminded of appropriate behaviour around a dog. They should not:

- make sudden movements;
- put their face near a dog;
- go near or disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating;
- play too roughly with a dog;
- feed or eat close to a dog.

Children must:

- wash their hands after handling a dog;
- remain calm around a dog;
- stroke a dog on his body, chest or back, not his face.

Warning Signs

Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or baring 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

If the dog is surrounded by a large number of students, he could become nervous and agitated. Therefore, the adult in charge of him must ensure that s/he monitors the situation.

Any dog foul will be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by an adult.

The Headteacher will know the whereabouts of the dog and which staff are supervising at all times.

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School which is reviewed every 3 years by the Policies Committee.