

## School Dog Policy



Written by	Harriet Carter	August 2025
Reviewed on		
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## **Earley Springs - School Dog Policy Overview**

Earley Springs recognises the numerous educational and emotional benefits that a well-managed school dog can bring to our students. This overview outlines how we ensure the safety and well-being of both our students and the school dog, adhering to the guidelines set out in our comprehensive School Dog Policy.

### **1. Policy Objectives and Risk Management**

- Earley Springs acknowledges that while risks exist in any school environment, the risks associated with a school dog can be effectively managed.
- A thorough risk assessment has been conducted and is reviewed annually to minimize potential incidents.
- Dogs are not permitted on school grounds unless explicitly authorised by the Headteacher, ensuring only approved animals are present. This excludes drop-off and collection times.

### **2. Dog Selection and Management**

- The school dog is owned by a designated member of staff.
- The Executive Board retains the right to refuse entry to any dog.
- Only the specifically designated school dog is allowed on the premises, with exceptions only for pre-approved therapy, assistance, or Dog Mentor dogs.
- The school dog is carefully selected for its temperament, trainability, compatibility with children, and hypoallergenic qualities.

### **3. Communication and Health**

- Staff, parents, and children are fully informed about the presence of the school dog.
- Individuals with known dog allergies are kept away from the dog. Visitors are also notified upon arrival.
- The dog's health is paramount; it is excluded from school if unwell.

### **4. Supervision and Interaction Protocols**

- The dog is always kept on a lead when moving around the school and is under the direct supervision of a trained adult.
- Children are never left unsupervised with the dog.
- Clear guidelines are provided to children regarding appropriate behavior around the dog, emphasising calmness and respect.
- Children are instructed not to disturb the dog while it's sleeping or eating and to avoid rough play.
- Adult supervision is maintained, especially in group interactions, to prevent the dog from becoming overwhelmed.
- Staff are trained to recognise canine body language and to remove the dog from situations causing stress or anxiety.

- Children are not allowed to eat near the dog.
- Specific instructions are given on how to stroke the dog appropriately (on the body, chest, or back).
- Handwashing after handling the dog is mandatory for children.
- Any dog fouling is cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly.

## **5. Inclusion and Responsibilities**

- Parental consent is obtained regarding their child's interaction with the school dog.
- Visitors are informed of the policy upon arrival, and any concerns are promptly addressed.
- Designated staff members maintain records of the dog's activities and impact within the school.
- The school office maintains awareness of the dog's location and supervising staff.
- The school dog is included in fire evacuation procedures.

## **6. Addressing Concerns**

- Any concerns about the dog are immediately reported to the Head of School or a Deputy Head, and all concerns are thoroughly addressed.

## **7. Roles and Curriculum**

- The Executive Board is responsible for ensuring the school has a written School Dog Policy.
- The Head of School is responsible for the policy's implementation.
- All members of the school community (staff, pupils, parents, and visitors) are expected to adhere to the policy.
- The curriculum incorporates learning about dogs and responsible interaction, including awareness of safety around unfamiliar dogs outside of school.