

# FALKNER HOUSE - NURSERY – YEAR 6 including EYFS

## THE SCHOOL DOG POLICY

### 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.

### Principles

- Dogs are part and parcel of the school life. All dogs will have a very mild temperament.
- The dogs are located in the across the building.
- Parents and Staff have been verbally informed that the school will have a dogs.
- The relevant Bursar has produced a risk assessment and this will be reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dogs.
- Ill dogs will not be allowed into school.
- Dogs will be kept on a lead when on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an adult.
- Students must never be left alone with any dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around dogs and they should remain calm in his presence. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening them. Students should not to put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
- Students should not go near or disturb a dog when they is sleeping or eating.
- Students must not be allowed to play too roughly with the dogs.
- If a dog is surrounded by a large number of students, the dog could become nervous and agitated, therefore, the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that the situation is monitored. 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 he is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Children should not feed, or eat close to the dogs.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Any dog foul / mess should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.

### Welfare of the School Dog

The five welfare needs are in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and state that all animals need:

- A suitable environment - pets need a suitable place to live
- A suitable diet - pets need a balanced diet that meets their nutritional needs
- To exhibit normal behaviour patterns - pets should be able to behave normally.
- To be housed with, or apart from, other animals - different pet have different social needs
- To be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease - owners and carers are responsible for their pet's health. All pets should be checked at least once a day for any signs of illness.