

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 our school life. All Falkner House dogs have a very mild temperament.
- The dogs are located across the buildings.
- Parents and Staff have been verbally informed that the school has dogs.
- The Bursar has produced a risk assessment which is reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dogs.
- Ill dogs are not allowed into school.
- Dogs are kept on a lead when on a walk and are under the full control and supervision of an adult.
- Students are never be left alone with any dog and there is appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Students are reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around dogs and they should remain calm in their presence. They are told not to make sudden movements or stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening them. Students are told not to put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
- Students are told not go near or disturb a dog when they are sleeping or eating.
- Students are not 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 are not allowed to feed, or eat close to the dogs.
- Children 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.

Mrs Mrs Anita Griggs Principal reviewed 01st September 2023. Date of next review - no later than 1st September 2024.