



## School Dog Policy

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| Approved By: | Full Governing Body |
| Date:        | Nov 2021            |
| Review Date: | Apr 2022            |
| Signed:      |                     |

## **Aims**

This document provides information and clear guidance about our school dog.

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. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life.

## **Introduction**

The Victoria Road School dog 'Wilson' lives with and is owned by the Mr. Palmer. He is undertaking puppy training and is being supported in assistance dog training through PAWS for Therapy.

Wilson is a Cockapoo. He has been chosen due to the hypoallergenic nature of the breed and the fact that cockapoos are social and people-oriented. We expect Wilson to become a real asset to the school.

Wilson has public liability insurance through the DESC. He regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst he is there, they administer worm and flea treatments and monitor his weight.

## **General information**

- 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 been informed beforehand.
- Staff, visitors and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog. All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in school.
- If the dog is ill he will not be allowed into school.
- The dog will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of an appropriate adult.
- Children must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Children should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Children should remain calm around the dog. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog. Children should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
- Children should never go near or disturb the dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Children must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog.

## **Guidance for interaction with the dog**

- Everyone must wait until Wilson is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of children, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore, the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation.
- Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or bearing of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their handler 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.
- Children should not eat close to the dog or give him their food.
- Children should be careful to stroke Wilson on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head.
- If any child finds themselves alone with Wilson, they should inform an adult immediately.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by the adult in charge.
- Parents will be consulted on allowing their pupils access to the dog.
- All visitors will be informed about the dog and related protocols on arrival and office staff will relay visitor issues to the headteacher asap.
- Records and anecdotal evidence of the work and impact of the school dog will be maintained by school staff
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of the headteacher or other designated adult
- If someone reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the headteacher or deputy headteacher as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the headteacher.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy.
- Teachers, staff, pupils, parents and visitors are required to abide by this policy.
- The curriculum will support learning about dogs and how best to behave around our dog. This will include highlighting that not all dogs are well trained and that caution must be used around unknown dogs outside school.
- The Governing Body and Headteacher agree and review the School Dog Risk Assessment
- The DESC Legal and Administration Manager has agreed the School Dog Risk Assessment and has confirmed that public liability insurance is provided by the DESC for the school dog.

## **Risk**

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

Yes, there is, though there are a variety of accidents, which can happen within the school environment which far exceed the number of injuries or incidents caused by a dog. Therefore, it is just another risk that needs to be managed. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out and is included in this document (see appendix 1).

Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the headteacher. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog to be present.

## **Reasons to have a dog in school**

Academic research has shown that dogs working and helping in the school environment can achieve the following:

- 1) Improve academic achievement
- 2) Increase literacy skills
- 3) Promote calming behaviours
- 4) Increase social skills and self-esteem
- 5) Increase confidence
- 6) Teach responsibility and respect to all life
- 7) Help prevent truancy
- 8) Motivate children who are often less attentive

The following information has been taken from a range of sources to provide further detail about the benefits of having a dog in school:

**Behaviour:**

In some schools, dogs are making a difference in the behaviour of pupils. Researchers report that pupils can identify with animals, and with empathy for the dog, can better understand how classmates may feel. It was found that violent behaviour in participating pupils declined by 55%, and general aggression went down 62%. Behaviour problems occur in school and these can interfere with learning. Some schools are using dogs to improve behaviour problems by promoting positive behaviour in pupils. In a controlled study, pupils were found to have fewer disciplinary referrals in schools with a dog than schools without. Pupils' behaviour improved toward teachers, and pupils also showed more confidence and responsibility. Additionally, parents reported that children seemed more interested in school as a result of having a dog at school.

**Education:**

Reading programmes with dogs are doing wonders for some pupils. Children who might be embarrassed to read aloud to the class or even adults are likely to be less scared to read to a dog. "It might be less stressful for a child to read aloud to a dog than to a teacher or a peer. After all, a dog won't judge or correct you." Dogs are used to encourage struggling readers to practise reading aloud. With the presence of a "calm and well-trained dog," pupils find social support and peer interaction.

Dogs are incredibly calm and happy to have pupils read to them or join a group of children whilst they are having a book reading session. Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial to struggling, emerging readers. The dogs also provide confidence to children as they do not make fun of them when they read, but above all they make amazing listeners, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love. Research has proved that pupils who read to dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write, and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the pupils they mix with.

**Social Development:**

Dogs in school offer an opportunity for improving social development. They are especially useful for teaching pupils' social skills and responsibility. Specifically, schools are using dogs to help older pupils build self-esteem; learn about positive and negative reinforcement, responsibility, and boundaries. Others use dogs to help communication, teach kindness, and empower pupils. With a dog in school, pupils have the opportunity to learn how to care for the animal. This includes walking and grooming. Researchers report that involving pupils in the daily care of classroom dogs is a positive experience, promoting their own daily care. The pupils also learn about responsibility, caring and sharing when helping each other take care of a dog at school. Dogs will be gentle and loving, but at the same time full of fun and enjoyment for the pupils and staff. Those pupils who have shown a growth mindset or met challenge and faced failure during the week or those who have made good progress and have made effort to learn well may be rewarded with spending time during lunch or break to interact with the school dog. Walking, grooming, playing and training are some of the responsibility's pupils will be allowed to

undertake. It has been proved that working and playing with a dog improves children's social skills and self-esteem. Support Dogs can work with pupils on a one-one basis and will especially help those children who are going through upsetting/difficult times or even scared/phobic of dogs. The dog will bring much joy and help to all the pupils they meet and are happy to provide plenty of hugs to the children they are spending time with. Pupils who struggle with social interaction can find a reassuring friend in a dog.

N Johnstone October 2021

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Appendix 2: Frequently asked questions

## Appendix 1 School Dog Policy

| <b>SCHOOL DOG</b>  |                             | <b>Establishment: Victoria Road Primary School</b>  | <b>Date: October 2021</b>   |                                    |
|--|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>RISK ASSESSMENT</b>   |                             | <b>Assessment by: Natalie Johnstone</b>   | <b>Review Date: Apr 2022</b>  |                                    |
| <b>Approved by:</b>  |                             | <b>Date:</b>  |   |                                    |
| <b>As part of School Dog Policy</b>  |                             | <b>Headteacher</b>  |   |                                    |
| <b>Dog's name: Wilson</b>  |                             |   |   |                                    |
| <b>Interaction with pupils and staff</b> - to ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times   |                             |   |   |                                    |
| <b>Hazard / Risk</b>   | <b>Who is at risk?</b>      | <b>Normal Control Measures</b><br><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i>   | <b>Additional Control Measures</b><br><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i>   | <b>Risk Rating</b><br><b>H/M/L</b> |
| <b>School dog biting a child or adult</b><br><br>Child or adult being hurt if the school dog bites   | Staff<br>Pupils<br>Visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilson is being trained not to bite</li> <li>• puppy training will be attended out of school hours</li> <li>• extra training is being undertaken with PAWS for Therapy</li> <li>• Wilson lives with Mr Palmer, who handles him all the time to ensure that he has consistent messages and re-enforcement regarding interaction with children and adults</li> <li>• Wilson will be integrated slowly into school life over the Autumn Term 2021</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children will not interact with the school dog without supervision by the headteacher or authorised adult</li> <li>• guidelines and expectations will be agreed by pupils and staff to ensure that interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way</li> </ul>                 | L                                  |
| <b>Jumping up/scratching</b><br><br>If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark | Staff<br>Pupils<br>Visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilson is being trained not to jump up</li> <li>• puppy training will be attended out of school hours</li> <li>• extra training is being undertaken with PAWS for Therapy</li> <li>• Wilson lives with Mr Palmer, who handles him all the time to ensure that he has consistent messages and re-enforcement regarding interaction with children and adults</li> <li>• Wilson will be integrated slowly into school life over the Autumn Term 2021</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and adults will not interact with the school dog without supervision by the headteacher or authorised adult</li> <li>• the school dog will be enclosed in a crate in the headteacher's office or under lead control by an authorised adult when people interact with him</li> </ul> | M                                  |

| Hazard / Risk  | Who is at risk?                      | Normal Control Measures<br><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i>   | Additional Control Measures<br><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i>  | Risk Rating<br>H/M/L |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| <p><b>Running loose</b></p> <p>If the school dog were to run loose, he could hurt children/adults or damage</p>  | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilson will be contained at all times, either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in a crate or on a lead</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipment used to contain the school dog is monitored to ensure it is appropriate and effective</li> </ul>   | <p>L</p>             |
| <p>property</p> <p><b>Direct interaction with children/staff</b></p> <p>If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scratched</p> | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no interaction is allowed without authorisation - guidelines for children accidentally left alone with Wilson state that they should inform an adult immediately</li> <li>• no interaction is allowed with Wilson while he is sleeping</li> <li>• interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour or is unwell</li> <li>• reward/praise will be given to reinforce desired behaviour</li> <li>• Dog can be removed and sent home if required.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure the school dog is approached in the agreed manner</li> <li>• he may require days when he stays at home</li> <li>• emotional wellbeing of children and school dog considered at all times</li> </ul>   | <p>M</p>             |
| <p><b>Phobias - children/adults</b></p> <p><b>Any person with dog phobias may be scared of Wilson</b></p>  | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• letter sent home to parents asking them to return the form if they are unwilling for their child to have contact with Wilson</li> <li>• parents asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact</li> <li>• signage at the front of school and on the headteacher's door indicates presence of school dog</li> <li>• Wilson will be trained to work as an assistance dog with support from PAWS for Therapy</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and adults will not interact with the school dog without supervision by the headteacher or authorised adult</li> <li>• the school dog will be enclosed in a crate in the headteacher's office or under lead control by an authorised adult when people interact with him</li> </ul> | <p>L</p>             |



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| <p><b>Destruction of materials</b></p> <p>If allowed, the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources</p> | <p>School resources</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will be contained at all times</li> <li>• the school dog will have his own toys to play with and he will not be able to access normal school resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipment used to contain the school dog is monitored to ensure it is appropriate and effective</li> </ul> | <p>L</p> |
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| <p><b>Pupil and staff interaction with the school dog</b> - to ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times</p>  |                                      |   |  |  |
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| <p><b>Hazard / Risk</b></p>   | <p><b>Who is at risk?</b></p>        | <p><b>Normal Control Measures</b><br/><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i></p>   | <p><b>Additional Control Measures</b><br/><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i></p>  | <p><b>Risk Rating</b><br/><b>H/M/L</b></p> |
| <p><b>Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the dog</b></p> <p>If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect Wilson's training and have a negative impact on future interactions</p> | <p>School dog</p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog</li> <li>• no interaction with the school dog without authorisation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- guidelines for children accidentally left alone with Wilson state that they should inform an adult immediately</li> </ul> </li> <li>• no interaction is allowed with Wilson while he is sleeping</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped</li> <li>• emotional wellbeing of children and school dog considered at all times</li> </ul> | <p>M</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Use of rewards/treats</b></p> <p>Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat.</p>   | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and adults must clean their hands after handling treats</li> <li>• alcohol gel will be available to all adults and children</li> <li>• treats will only be given to the school dog with authorization and monitored for frequency</li> <li>• puppy training, using treats, is undertaken</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reminders to the children to wash hands/use alcohol gel after handling treats</li> <li>• treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation</li> </ul>                                | <p>L</p>                                   |

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| <p><b>Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with puppy/dog</b></p> <p>If adults have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to school dog or themselves</p> | <p>School dog<br/>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training will be given to each class on an annual basis</li> <li>• puppy training for Wilson and PAWS for Therapy involvement in training for school dog and children/adults</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog</li> </ul> | <p>M</p> |
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| <p><b>Hygiene/health</b> - to ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school</p> |   |   |  |  |
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| <p><b>Hazard / Risk</b></p>   | <p><b>Who is at risk?</b></p>                       | <p><b>Normal Control Measures</b><br/><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i></p>   | <p><b>Additional Control Measures</b><br/><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i></p>  | <p><b>Risk Rating</b><br/><b>H/M/L</b></p> |
| <p><b>Worms/fleas</b></p> <p>If the school dog is not treated for worms or fleas there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans</p>                        | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will be treated appropriately to ensure he has the correct treatment for worms and fleas</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor that vet visits happen promptly and actions suggested by vet are followed</li> </ul>  | <p>L</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Faeces</b></p> <p>If a child/adult comes into contact with the school dog's feces some germs could be transferred</p>   | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will only be walked under supervision and on a lead</li> <li>• the school dog will not be exercised on school premises but will be allowed on school grounds</li> <li>• no child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces. An adult will always be responsible for this</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they report it to an adult</li> <li>• any feces will be disposed of correctly</li> <li>• if Wilson is unwell on school premises, he will be taken home and all areas sanitised as necessary</li> </ul> | <p>L</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Allergies</b></p> <p>If a child is allergic to dogs, they could become unwell</p>   | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors</p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog is hypo-allergenic</li> <li>• children will not be in contact with the school dog if we have received a negative response from parents/carers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if there are concerns for a child the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child</li> </ul>   | <p>M</p>                                   |

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| <p><b>Children's access to school dog's resources</b></p> <p>If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell</p> | Pupils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all of the school dog's treats/food will be locked away</li> <li>• children will not be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorization</li> <li>• only authorized food/treats for the dog</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remind children not to enter the school dog's area without authorisation</li> </ul> | L |
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| <b>Activities involving the school dog, including walking</b> - to ensure that the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community |                             |  |   |                                    |
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| <b>Hazard / Risk</b>   | <b>Who is at risk?</b>      | <b>Normal Control Measures</b><br><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i>  | <b>Additional Control Measures</b><br><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i>   | <b>Risk Rating</b><br><b>H/M/L</b> |
| <p><b>Contact with food preparation areas</b></p> <p>If the school dog enters food preparation areas this could be unhygienic</p>                      | Staff<br>Pupils<br>Visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school</li> <li>• he will never enter the school kitchen</li> </ul> |   | L                                  |
| <p><b>Cleaning hands after interacting with the dog</b></p> <p>If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell</p>                        | Staff<br>Pupils<br>Visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remind children and adults to clean their hands</li> </ul> | L                                  |

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| <p><b>Walking the dog on and off site</b></p> <p>Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focused. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk</p> | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EVOLVE forms will be completed for when the school dog is taken off site</li> <li>• no children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk, unless authorised by the accompanying adult</li> <li>• no children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless permission is given</li> <li>• interaction on the school playground/field will be introduced over time and after training for the school dog and school community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog needs for walks on his own</li> <li>• careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes</li> </ul> | <p>M</p> |
| <p><b>Visits to classroom</b></p> <p>If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure, he may become over excited</p>   | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will initially only make classroom visits with the headteacher</li> <li>• children will follow the agreed procedure for interaction in the classroom or interaction will stop</li> <li>• Wilson will wear a school 'collar' to identify when he is 'working' in school</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of a suitable adult</li> </ul>  | <p>M</p> |

| <b>Hazard / Risk</b>  | <b>Who is at risk?</b>                              | <b>Normal Control Measures</b><br><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i>  | <b>Additional Control Measures</b><br><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i>  | <b>Risk Rating</b><br><b>H/M/L</b> |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Being fed</b></p> <p>If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating, he may respond aggressively<br/>If a child is eating or has food in their pocket the school dog may show an interest</p> | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children will not be allowed access to the dog when he is eating</li> <li>• children may prepare food for the school dog, washing their hands afterwards</li> <li>• all feeding will be supervised</li> <li>• Wilson will be trained to not 'ask' for food</li> <li>• guidelines will be followed regarding feeding Wilson</li> <li>• Wilson will not be allowed in the dining hall at lunchtime</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reminders to the children feeding the school dog not to interact when he is eating</li> <li>• pupils will be reminded not to feed Wilson from their own food</li> </ul> | <p>L</p>                           |

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| <p><b>School events</b></p> <p>If the school dog is overwhelmed, he may become aggressive or boisterous</p>                           | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate</li> <li>• he will be under the control of a supervising adult</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor the school dog's reaction to school events</li> <li>• if the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day</li> </ul> | <p>L</p> |
| <p><b>Other dogs - on and off the school site</b></p> <p>If the school dog is overwhelmed, he may become aggressive or boisterous</p> | <p>Staff<br/>Pupils<br/>Visitors<br/>School dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no other dogs will be allowed on the school premises</li> <li>• the school dog will initially only be walked by adults so that reactions to other dogs can be dealt with</li> <li>• he will not be walked by a child unless specific authorisation has been given by the appropriate adult</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adult in charge monitors the school dog's reaction when out walking</li> </ul>  | <p>L</p> |

| General  |                             |  |  |                      |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| Hazard / Risk  | Who is at risk?             | Normal Control Measures<br><i>(Brief description and/or reference to source of information).</i>   | Additional Control Measures<br><i>(To take account of local/individual circumstances).</i>   | Risk Rating<br>H/M/L |
| <b>Claim made against the school regarding behaviour of the school dog. Possible incident or injury.</b> | VRS<br>DESC                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confirmation from Andrew Shipley (DESC - Legal and Administration Manager) that public liability insurance is in place for the school dog</li> <li>school dog risk assessment adhered to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DESC informed of any changes or updates regarding Wilson and risk assessment</li> </ul>   | M                    |
| <b>General costs regarding school dog</b>  | VRS<br>Natalie<br>Johnstone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all health and maintenance costs for Wilson will be met by Mr Palmer</li> <li>any accidental costs incurred on school premises may be met by the school</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>measures taken to prevent any possible accidental costs</li> </ul>  | L                    |
| <b>Visitors to school not knowing that there is a dog on site</b>  | Visitors<br>School dog      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>signage at the front of school and on the headteacher's door indicates presence of school dog</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>verbal information will be shared with all visitors</li> </ul>  | L                    |
| <b>Fire Evacuation<br/>Safety of school dog</b>  | School dog                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the headteacher is responsible for the safe evacuation of Wilson from school premises in the event of an emergency</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a designated adult will be given the responsibility for safe evacuation of the school dog should the headteacher be unavailable or off school premises</li> </ul> | L                    |

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reviewed by :       | Review<br>date:<br>Apr<br>2022 |
| Chair of Governors: |                                |
| Headteacher         |                                |

*A caring community where learners rise to the challenge*

**Appendix 2 School Dog Policy**

*A caring community where learners rise to the challenge*

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Q Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs?**

A The legal owner of the dog is Mr. Palmer; he will bear the costs associated with owning the dog; the DESC provides public insurance.

### **Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder?**

A Yes. The dog is from a local and reputable breeder

### **Q Will the dog be a distraction?**

A The dog will be kept in the headteacher's office. The office is separate from the classrooms / playground area to ensure the dog only comes into contact with children who are happy to have contact and have not been excluded from contact by parents, under strict supervision. The dog will also attend meetings with staff to support further socialisation, following consultation with staff beforehand

### **Q Has a risk assessment been undertaken?**

A Yes, we have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources. The risk assessment has been agreed by the DESC and school governors

### **Q Who is responsible for training?**

A Mr. Palmer is the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for its training, although the Headteacher is responsible when the dog is on school premises. Appropriate professional training will be obtained and the dog will work towards being trained as a school dog with support from XXXXXX

### **Q How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?**

A In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted when taken out for short walks offsite. This area will be properly maintained and only staff members will clear any fouling away. This will be done appropriately, leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed.

Our policy of no dogs in the playground is still applicable as we are unable to put effective control measures in place that guarantee temperament and safety when children come into unsupervised contact with unknown dogs.



**Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?**

A The dog will be walked regularly and given free time. Parents will be able to give permission in advance to allow their child to be able to walk with a member of staff and the dog during that time. The dog will be kept in the headteacher's office and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. The dog will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have appropriate access to food and water. We will work carefully to ensure the dog's welfare is always considered.

**Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?**

A Children will not need to touch the dog, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. Some allergies are already managed at school and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies. The breed of dog is known to be hypoallergenic, but this cannot be fully guaranteed. The dog is given a high-quality food and regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.

**Q My child is frightened of dogs; how will you manage this?**

A Access to the dog is carefully managed and supervised. Children do not need to have close contact with the dog if this wish has been communicated by parents to us and to their child.

We hope to work closely with parents of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this.