



# Education Trust

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“Aspire, Belong, Collaborate”

## ROSELANDS SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Review Frequency	Annual
Reviewed	5.9.25
Next Review	5.9.26
Agreed by Head	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2025



## INTRODUCTION

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog.

To minimise the risk to children in school, dogs, other than the school dog, are not allowed on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Head of School. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog to be present.

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

Of course 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.

## SCHOOL POLICY

The dog will be owned by Miss Mel McDade. The dog is a Golden Cocker Spaniel, Finley, chosen by the Head of School for its mild temperament and low-moulting coat. The owner will be responsible for Finley's regular visits to the vets, injections and inoculations and worming treatments.

The Trustees, Governors, CEO and Head Teacher have agreed that the school can have a dog.

Staff have been informed, through staff briefing, that the school will have a dog. Parents have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. At the start of each academic year there will be lessons around the school dog and parents will be given an opportunity to speak to the Head with regards to the school dog. Head of school has produced a risk assessment and this will be reviewed annually. The risk assessment is attached as Appendix A

In the event of an emergency evacuation the adult supporting Finley will accompany him to the Fire Evacuation point.

Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must remain at a manageable distance. Parents are able to inform the school of any allergies on admission.

If the dog is unwell Finley will not be allowed into school.



The dog will be under full control and supervision of an adult within the classroom and when moving around the school.

There will be times that Finley is working off lead, but this will only happen under the control of Miss Mel McDade (Finley's owner).

Students must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times when the dog is present with students.

Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Students 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. Students should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up. Students should never go near or disturb the dog that is sleeping or eating. Students must not be allowed to play too roughly with the dog.

If the 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 he monitors the situation.

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.

Children should not feed or eat close to the dogs.

Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog. As a school we will provide anti-bacterial gel.

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

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Trust Board have a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School.

The Head of School is responsible for implementing this policy.

Teachers and staff and children are required to abide by this policy.

The Head of school is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance as and when required.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the school dog is invited to inform the school of their wishes. If any parent or pupil object to



the animals' presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that the dog is kept away from them. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the school senior leadership team will evaluate the impact of a school dog on a regular basis.



Appendix A

Roselands School Dog Risk Assessment

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1-5 *	Likelihood 1-5*	Controls in Place
Dog Getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to the ground	1	2	<p>The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises.</p> <p>Children are not left with the dog unsupervised.</p> <p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or mouth the children.</p> <p>Pupils have been, and continue to be, taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to whole school during assemblies and PSHE lessons.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms)</p>
	Child scratched by the dog	3	2	<p><b>The dog will receive ongoing formal training, socialising and conditioning within the school environment.</b></p> <p>Pupils and adults will be reminded not to touch Finley's mouth, head and rear end and to discourage any attempts to jump up or mouth.</p>
	Child bitten by the dog	4	2	<p>The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, this area of training will allow future reading or nurture intervention to involve the school dog in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as the dog progresses through his weekly training programme.</p> <p>The dog will attend the vets' regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and that he is in good health.</p>



Believe and Achieve



The dog gets loose from him crate or lead.	As above	1	1	<p>The dog's crate is big enough for him to be happy and safe during the school day.</p> <p>He will be fully supervised and children are taught not to tease him but to remain calm around him.</p> <p>The dog is trained for recall.</p>
Dog hair causing allergies	Children have allergic reactions	2	1	<p>Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school recording system.</p> <p>Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children have been taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.</p>
Children getting germs from the dog	Children/ staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs	1	1	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. The dog will be encouraged to toilet in an area of the school that our pupil's don't have access to on a regular basis, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and the Head Teacher keeps a register of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals.</p> <p>Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 6 monthly intervals</p> <p>The dog will not go into the school dining hall at meal times and will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen.</p>



Believe and Achieve



Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills	1	1	<p>The dog is the responsibility of Miss Mel McDade and he is financially responsible for all his care, basic training and day to day costs.</p> <p>As the dog will not be used for 'therapy' work within the school, the school will not incur any costs towards training and assessment of the dog to meet these criteria. However, the school will bear the cost of initial suitability assessment of the dog by a dog behaviouralist.</p>
Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially			<p>Miss Mel McDade insures the dog.</p> <p>The school holds public liability insurance.</p>

KEY:

1- Low risk

2

3 -Medium risk of injury

4

5-High risk of injury



## DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS

### June 2023

- New policy and risk assessment

### September 2025

- Removed 'The dog will only be held in the Head of School office.'
- Changed that Finley will be kept on the lead at all times, he will be off the lead when suitable and if Mel McDade is present.

