



# School Dog Policy

**Approved by Governing Body:**

**Date:** January 2021

**Last reviewed by SLT on:**

**Next review due by:** January 2022

**Dissemination of the Policy:** All staff and Governors, School Website

## History of policy changes

Date	Version	Change	Origin of change e.g. change in legislation, request by TU	Changed by

## School Dog Policy/Guidelines

### Purpose

#### Introduction

We believe that Max will promote the school's core values of honesty, respect and kindness in our young people and, as part of our commitment to developing positive relationships and wellbeing for all stakeholders, we believe that Max will support us as we sustain our improvement in attendance.

**Dogs teach young people responsibility.** Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give young people a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from other areas of school. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.

**Dogs teach young people patience.** Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!

**Dogs teach young people about socialisation.** Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, young people can learn how to better socialise with other young people.

**Dogs are fun.** Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up, even on your worst day.

The Pittville School dog Max lives with Mrs Peck and her family. He is very much a family dog but with the right temperament to work with a wide range of young people and adults within the school environment. Max is a very caring and well behaved puppy. Max is a Golden Labrador.

Max regularly visits the vet for check-ups and has undertaken a range of behaviour training opportunities to enable him to manage the school environment.

## **Guidelines to interaction with the School Dog**

Under no circumstances will young people have close interaction with the school dog unless the school has permission from parents/carers.

Once permission has been given, no child shall be forced into interaction with the school dog if this makes them feel unhappy in anyway.

At all times interaction with the school dog must be controlled and safe for adults, young people and the school dog himself. If the following guidelines are not followed, interaction with the school dog will be cancelled.

At all times of interaction there must be an authorised adult who takes the leading role when interacting with the school dog. If young people, or visiting adults, do not abide by the guidance given by the authorised adult the interaction will be cancelled.

The following guidelines must be followed when interacting with the school dog. These guidelines apply to all adults and young people.

- Never enter the school dog's room without an authorised adult
- If the door to the school dog's room is shut make sure you knock and wait for the authorised adult to let you in. Never let yourself in as the school dog might not be ready.
- There must be an authorised adult present during all interaction
- Always approach the school dog calmly (voice and movement)
- Always approach the school dog slowly
- Never run up to the school dog
- To start interaction the back of a hand will be offered for the school dog to sniff
- Keep noise levels low during interaction with the school dog
- All interaction must remain calm with the authorised adult staying in control at all times
- Only the authorised adult can move any of the school dog's resources, including food and treats
- Visiting young people and adults can only handle equipment if the authorising adult gives permission
- Whilst the school dog is new to the school no visiting adult or young people will give him any food/treats
- There must not be any interaction with the school dog whilst he is eating
- After all interaction with the school dog hands must be washed with soap and water/ hand gel
- When interacting with the school dog all young people must remain on their feet and not kneel or lay down unless guided to by the authorised adult
- If the school dog is with an authorised adult he does not need to be on his lead when in school.

As the school dog becomes more established there will be times when interaction will take place outside. On these occasions the following guidelines apply in addition to the guidelines outlined above

- No young people will ever be asked to pick up faeces
- If walking the school dog, an authorised adult must be present at all times. Young people may hold the school dog's lead if they are confident to do so. The authorised adult remains in charge of the situation at all times and will take back the school dog's lead if necessary.