

Eastfield Primary School - Enfield



School Dog Policy

Created June 2019



Approved by Governors: July 2019

To Be Reviewed: June 2020

To be read in conjunction with 'The Benefits of Having a Dog In School' document and 'School Dog Risk Assessment' (see appendix)

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.

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

Yes there is, though there are a variety of accidents that 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 this is included in this document (see appendix).

Dogs (i.e. other than the school dog) are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Head Teacher. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog (here in referred to as 'Lando') to be present within the school grounds.

School Policy

- Lando will be owned by Mr Statham. All costs associated with Lando will be the responsibility of Mr Statham.
- The Governors have the right to refuse entry to Lando.
- Only Lando is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on to the site unless the Head Teacher has been informed and given explicit permission before hand.
- Lando is a cockapoo (cocker-spaniel/toy poodle cross) chosen because it is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with children, which sheds little hair and is very sociable and friendly.
- Staff, parents and children will be informed by letter that a dog will be in school.
- Mr Statham, Deputy-Head Teacher has produced a risk assessment and this will be reviewed annually.
- People that are allergic to dogs tend to react less or not at all to cockapoos (due to the hypo-allergenic poodle side of their breed). Staff, visitors and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs will be monitored for any reaction and necessary steps will be put in place to ensure that anyone who does have an allergic reaction is able to keep away from Lando.
- All visitors will be informed upon arrival that there is a dog in school.
- If Lando is ill he will not be allowed into school.
- Lando will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of a confident adult.
- Children must never be left alone with Lando and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.

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- Children should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around any dog.
 - Children should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
 - Children should never go near or disturb a dog that is sleeping.
 - Children will not be allowed to play roughly with Lando.
 - Everyone must wait until Lando is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
 - If a dog is surrounded by a large number of children, it could become nervous and agitated. Therefore the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation. Lando has been selected as he has been handled by young children since birth and has a calm temperament. He will only be exposed to situations in which he can be approached by more children once he has shown that he is used to his surroundings.
 - 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 owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If Lando is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- A team of volunteer staff will support the handling and supervision of Lando around the school although the majority of the time he will be with Mr Statham.
- Lando will not be allowed near any children when they are eating and he will not be allowed in the school dining room.
- Children should be careful to stroke Lando on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head.
- All classes will have a lesson about the do's and don't of being with a dog at the start of the school year and any child new to the school will also have the necessary guidance and introduction to Lando.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling a dog – any adult walking or supervising Lando around the playground will have a pack with them containing hand wash.
- Any dog foul will be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by one of the volunteer team of adults who have agreed to help look after Lando whilst he is on the school site.
- Parents will be given the option of meeting with Mr Statham to discuss any possible concerns they have regarding their child's interactions with Lando.
- All visitors will be informed about Lando and related protocols on arrival (via a sign by the reception window) and office staff will relay any visitor issues/concerns to Mr Statham asap.
- Class teachers will be encouraged to take on project work/class activities/lessons that involve Lando (e.g. within Science units related to animals)
- Children, whom have permission from a member of staff at school, will be allowed to read to Lando.
- Classes can work towards a reward of having Lando visit their class for a lesson.
- Children, under the close supervision of an adult, will be allowed to take Lando for walk around the playground.
- Children may be given the opportunity to spend some time with Lando in the office, either as a reward, or possibly to support a child who is feeling unhappy or whom the school feels would benefit from some additional time.
- Mr Statham will know the whereabouts of Lando and which staff are supervising him at all times.
- Lando will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mr Statham or Mrs Jamil.
- Lando will not be fed whilst on the school site.

Actions

- If someone reports having an issue with Lando, this information must be passed to the Head Teacher or Deputy as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by either the Head teacher or Deputy Head.

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Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School.
- The Head teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are 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.

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who is the legal owner of Lando and who pays for its costs?

A: The legal owner of Lando will be Mr Statham; he will bear the costs associated with owning the dog.

Q: Is Lando from a reputable breeder?

A: Yes. Lando is from a home where both parents were seen and has been specifically chosen for his temperament. Both parents are KC registered. Lando has also been handled by young children since birth and will be living in a home with two children.

Q: Will Lando be allowed to walk freely around the school?

A: No, other than when he is inside of the school office, he will always be on a lead and closely supervised by an adult.

Q: Will Lando be a distraction?

A: Lando will primarily be kept in the office area. The office is separate from the main classrooms/playground area. Lando will also have some planned opportunities to spend time in classrooms and in the playground where children can interact safely under close supervision.

Lando 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, including other schools that successfully have a school dog.

Q: Who is responsible for training?

A: Mr Statham will be the legal owner of Lando and as a result, will be responsible for his training. Appropriate professional training will be obtained and Lando will eventually work towards being a certified therapy dog.

Q: How will Lando be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?

A: In the interest of health and hygiene Lando will be toileted before school, but also when taken out for short walks in the grounds. Only staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed. Each staff member will have a pack that includes disposable bags, disposable gloves, hand wash and disinfectant spray.

Q: Are other dogs allowed within the school?

A: 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. Only Lando will be allowed within the school grounds.

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Q: How will Lando's welfare be considered?

A: Lando will be walked regularly and given time outside. Permitted children will also be allowed to spend time with Lando as a behaviour reward. Lando will be kept in the office area and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. Lando will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to water. He will be fed at home before and after school to avoid any issues related to having dog food in school. 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 Lando and will only be in the same room as him for short periods of time, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. We already manage a number of allergies 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 (cockapoo) is known for minimal moulting, he is given 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 Lando is carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have close contact with him unless they wish to. 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. Class teachers will have a record of any children who are nervous around dogs to ensure their concerns are taken into consideration.