

Amethyst Academies Trust

Therapy/ Reading Dog Policy

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1. Purpose

Students can benefit educationally and emotionally through contact with a suitable calm dog.

Students can develop empathy and nurturing skills through supervised interactions.

Students who are vulnerable and those less confident in reading can benefit by reading out loud to a reading dog, which can create a suitable enjoyment for the student to gain confidence and make reading an enjoyable activity.

Dogs teach children about socialisation, dogs are sociable creatures who need attention and affection, by learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with their peers.

The breed of Labrador is carefully selected as suitable for this type of purpose.

2. Dog Training

The school Dog, will have passed the necessary training qualifications allowing it to work with students in a school environment. The training provider used for this purpose, as detailed below

WKD Trained Dogs Ltd, Brookhouse Farm, Yarnfield Lane, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NF

3. Ownership of the Dog.

The school dog will be owned by Mrs Bayliss and will reside with Mrs Bayliss outside of school hours.

1. Mrs Bayliss will have overall responsibility for the dog.
2. Mrs Bayliss will ensure the dog is kept up to date with flea and worm treatments
3. Mrs Bayliss will be responsible for ensuring the dog is registered with a vet and attends his yearly vaccinations and any other veterinary appointments as necessary.
4. Mrs Bayliss will cover the necessary costs for keeping the dog in a fit and healthy manner.

4. Interactions with staff and pupils

The school dog will be:

1. Primarily based in the student inclusion centre.
2. Be supervised by an adult at all times during the school day
3. Be kept on a lead when moving around the school premises
4. Have an adequate 'quiet space' for him to retreat to during periods of rest
5. Only have interactions with the students with whom consent has been given for contact with the dog.
6. The school dog will only attend events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a supervising adult at all times during the event.
7. Should the dog become agitated or overwhelmed the dog will be removed from the environment for time out.

The students will:

1. Be reminded to remain calm around the dog
2. Be gentle when touching the dog
3. Not put their face near to the dog
4. Not disturb the dog when he is eating and sleeping
5. Not feed the dog
6. Wash their hands after touching the dog

5. Health and Hygiene

1. The dog be correctly treated for flea and worms on a monthly basis.
2. No child will be asked to pick up faeces, this will always be undertaken by an adult in supervision.
3. No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation.
4. The dog's food and resources will be locked away for safe keeping.
5. The school dog will never enter the school kitchen
6. If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near to the child
7. All adults and children will be required to clean their hands after interaction with the school dog.

6. Allergies and illness

On notification by a parent, that the student is not to have contact with the dog due to allergy or non- consent, the student in question will not have contact with the dog and will not have access to the area where the dog is kept.

7. Social Media

Regular updates about the work that the school dog is undertaking will be provided by the school's social media pages.

8. Accidents

Should a bite occur, the school's accident procedures will be followed:

1. Parents will be contacted immediately
2. The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing
3. If required, the child/adult will be released from school to seek further medical attention.
4. Staff will be informed
5. A full investigation will take place
6. The suitability of the school dog being allowed on site will be assessed by the head teacher.

9. Insurance

The dog will have third party insurance cover, as taken out in the name of the trust. This policy and the schools risk assessment (see Appendix 1) will be reviewed on a yearly basis, in consultation with the board of governors and head teacher.