



The Iffley Academy

Dogs in School Policy

Introduction

There is a considerable body of evidence that suggests that simply being with animals has a therapeutic effect, and an increasing number of organisations are using dogs to enhance wellbeing. Working with dogs provides pupils with many benefits, including building confidence and self esteem. Dogs are used to provide consolation, comfort and as a breathing space. Pupils can, accompanied by an adult, take a dog for a walk within the school grounds or sit with the dog for a few minutes in a quiet space.

Pupils cannot fail in any way in their relationship with the dogs: the dogs do not judge or condemn, and offer unconditional affection. Pupils learn the principles of good pet ownership and are given a sense of responsibility through their contact with the dogs.

The use of dogs is a key feature of Iffley Academy and has been endorsed by the Board of Trustees. Key stakeholders, including parents and carers, are aware of the use of dogs.

Health and Safety

The dogs are fully socialised and trained.

Risk Assessments are completed for every aspect of bringing dogs into school and pupils are taught how to handle dogs safely and responsibly. Pupils are instructed to wash their hands after handling the dogs. Faeces are immediately removed and disposed of in a plastic bag.

All visitors are alerted to the fact that there are dogs in school on their arrival.

Dogs are kept on leads except when being exercised on the school field or inside the school building. Dogs are not allowed in areas such as the staffroom and dining hall.

Dogs are supervised by the owner or a nominated adult. Selected pupils are allowed to handle dogs following a risk assessment process. Dogs are handled consistently and safely.

Dog handlers are aware of those staff and pupils who may be afraid of, or be allergic to, dogs.

The welfare and wellbeing of animals is paramount, and dogs are provided with 'rest' periods during the school day to avoid any risk of stress.

Dogs are healthy, fully vaccinated and wormed. All dogs must have full insurance.

Signed Head Teacher

..... Chair of Trustees

Date December 2017

Review date December 2020