



Chapel-en-le-Frith High School
School Dog Policy – Eric



Chloe Henshall
September 2025

To be reviewed September 2026

School Dog Policy

Introduction

Young people 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, young people take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog.

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

Yes there is, although 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. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out and this is included in this document.

Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Headteacher. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog to be present.

School Policy

The dog will be owned by Mrs Henshall.

- The Governors have the right to refuse entry to the dog.
- Only the school dog is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless they are a known therapy or assistance dog and the Headteacher has been informed beforehand.
- The dog is a male Labrador chosen because he is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with young people, is very sociable and friendly.
- The Chair of Governors and the governing board agree that a school dog will benefit the students and staff of Chapel High School.
- Staff, parents and students have been informed that a dog will be in school. Mrs Henshall has produced a risk assessment that will be available to parents. The risk assessment will be reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog. All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in school. Anyone with a fear of dogs will be respected and never forced to interact with the dog. They can receive coaching in a controlled environment with the dog to help them overcome their fears if they so wish.
- The dog's health and well-being is prioritised along with that of the young people and staff. The dog will be insured. All vaccinations, worming treatments and vet checks will be up-to-date. If the dog is ill he will not be brought into school.
- The dog will be kept on a short lead when moving between classrooms and will be under the full control and supervision of a trained adult.
- Students must never be left alone with the dog and there must be an appropriate adult supervising at all times.

- 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 the dog and should always approach it standing up and offer their hand under his chin as this is less threatening than the top of his head.
- Information about how to be safe around a dog and how to approach a dog to be displayed on tutor notice boards and around school. This information are guidelines produced from the Dogs Trust for schools.
- Students will not go near or disturb the dog when he is eating or sleeping.
- Students must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog.
- Students must wait until the dog is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of young people, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that he/she monitors the situation.
- 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 the dog is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Students should not eat close to or feed the dog.
- Students should be careful to stroke the dog on his body, chest, and back and not by his face or on the top of the head.
- Students should wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately. The dog will be trained to use a designated, external toileting area that is out-of-bounds to the students. If any 'accidents' occur in areas where students have access to, appropriate measures will be taken to disinfect the affected site.
- Parents will be consulted on allowing their young people access to the dog.
- All visitors will be informed about the dog and related protocols on arrival and office staff will relay visitor issues to the Headteacher quickly.
- The office will know the whereabouts of the school dog and which staff are supervising at all times.
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mrs Henshall, Miss Gillis and/or Miss Williams-Tyler via the external door near the Sports Hall (closest fire exit to the Learning Support Office).

Actions

If someone reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the Headteacher or the Deputy as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the Headteacher.

If there are any incidents, including if the dog was to bite a student or staff member, the student would be supported to seek medical attention, the dog would be removed from the

school premises and the incident would be reported to and investigated by the local authorities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in school.

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy.

Teachers, staff, students, parents and visitors are required to abide by this policy.

The curriculum will support learning about dogs and how best to behave around all dogs.