



**RIVERSIDES**  
EVERY STUDENT MATTERS

## School Dog Policy

June 2023

To be reviewed June 2024

### **Introduction**

Students 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, students 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, 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 (see appendix 3).

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

### **School Policy**

The dogs will be owned by Ian Enwright (Bean) and Rebecca Kemp (Donald).

- The Governors have the right to refuse entry to the dog(s).

- Only the school dogs are allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless the Headteacher has given prior permission, and they are insured to be on the premises. Membership of the Dogs Trust entitles the owner to third party insurance, and as long as the dog is not working, they are covered - please see the Dogs Trust Website FAQs

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/get-involved/membership/faqs/>

- Bean is a Dachshund and Donald is a Show Cocker Spaniel, chosen because they are intelligent breeds that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with children and are very sociable and friendly.
- Staff, parents and students have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. A risk assessment has been produced (appendix 3) and this will be reviewed annually.
- The school dogs will be insured for veterinary treatment with a reputable pet insurance company, e.g. PetPlan.
- PetPlan and other similar insurers do not provide cover for public liability within the school, so a separate policy will be arranged for each owner with a company called Pet Business Insurance. This will be reviewed at insurance renewal to ensure best value.
- 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.
- If the dog is ill s/he will not be allowed into school.
- The dog 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 trained adult.
- Students will not be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Students will be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Students should remain calm around the dog. (We will use the Pat, Pet, Pause strategy)
- Students should never go near or disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Students must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog. Everyone must wait until Bean and Donald are sitting or lying down before touching or stroking them.
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of students, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore, the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation.
- Students should not eat close to the dog.
- Students should always wash their hands after handling a dog.
- Parents will be consulted on allowing their children access to the dog via an opt out agreement.

- All visitors will be informed about the dog and related protocols on arrival and office staff will relay visitor issues to the Headteacher or Head of School asap.
- Appropriately trained staff will maintain records and anecdotal evidence of the work and impact of the school dog.

This includes Ian Enwright, Rebecca Kemp, and various teachers/members of SLT.

- The office will know the whereabouts of the dog and which staff are supervising at all times.
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Ian Enwright, Rebecca Kemp and Dawn Barron.

#### Actions

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

#### 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 our dogs.

This will include highlighting that not all dogs are well trained and that caution must be used around unknown dogs outside school.

## Appendix 1.

Reasons to have a dog in school

In summary, academic research has shown that dogs working and helping in the school environment can achieve the following:-

1. Improve academic achievement
2. Increase literacy skills
3. Calming behaviours
4. Increase social skills and self-esteem
5. Increase confidence
6. Teach responsibility and respect to all life
7. Help prevent school refusing
8. Motivate students who are often less attentive

The following information has been taken from a range of sources to provide further detail about the benefits of having a dog in school:

**Behaviour:** In some schools, dogs are making a difference in the behaviour of pupils.

Researchers report that students can identify with animals, and with empathy for the dog, can better understand how classmates may feel.

It was found that violent behaviour in participating students declined by 55%, and general aggression went down 62%.

Behaviour problems occur in school and these can interfere with learning.

Some schools are using dogs to improve behaviour problems by promoting positive behaviour in students.

In a controlled study, students were found to have fewer disciplinary referrals in schools with a dog than schools without.

Students' behaviour improved toward teachers, and students also showed more confidence and responsibility.

Additionally, parents reported that students seemed more interested in school as a result of having a dog at school.

**Attendance:** Case study: Mandy was a student with poor attendance and anxiety.

Mandy was encouraged back into school using caring for River, a dog, as an incentive. By telling Mandy that "if she didn't come to school to care for him, he wouldn't get walks, water or love," Mandy came to school almost every day for the rest of the year, only missing two days.

Education: Reading programmes with dogs are doing wonders for some students.

Students who might be embarrassed to read aloud to the class or even adults are likely to be less scared to read to a dog. "It might be less stressful for a child to read aloud to a dog than to a teacher or a peer. After all, a dog won't judge or correct you." Dogs are used to encourage struggling readers to practise reading aloud. With the presence of a "calm and well-trained dog," students find social support and peer interaction. Dogs are incredibly calm and happy to have student read to them or join a group of Students in the library whilst they are having a book reading session.

Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial to struggling, emergent readers. The dogs also provide confidence to Students as they do not make fun of them when they read, but above all they make amazing listeners, providing the Students with a sense of comfort and love.

Research has proved that students who read to dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write, and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the students they mix with.

Social Development: Dogs in school offer an opportunity for improving social development. They are especially useful for teaching students social skills and responsibility. Specifically, schools are using dogs to help older students build self-esteem; learn about positive and negative reinforcement, responsibility, and boundaries.

Older students use dogs to help communicate, teach kindness, and empower students. With a dog in school, students have the opportunity to learn how to care for the animal. This includes walking and grooming. Researchers report that involving students in the daily care of classroom dogs is a positive experience, promoting their own daily care. The students also learn about responsibility, caring, and sharing when helping each other take care of a dog at school.

As a reward: Dogs will be gentle and loving, but at the same time full of fun and enjoyment for the students. Those students who have performed incredibly well during the week or those who have made progress in a certain subject, or those who have achieved tasks set for them, will be rewarded with spending time during lunch or break to interact with these dogs. Walking, grooming, playing and training are some of the responsibilities students will be allowed to undertake. It has been proved that working and playing with a dog improves students' social skills and self-esteem.

Support Dogs can work with students on a one-one basis and will especially help those students who have been bullied, abused, going through upsetting/difficult times or even scared/phobic of dogs. The dog will bring much joy and help to all the students they meet and are happy to provide plenty of hugs to the students they are spending time with. Students who struggle with social interaction can find a reassuring friend in a dog.

## Appendix 2

### School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs? A The legal

owners of the dogs will be Ian Enwright (Bean) and Rebecca Kemp(Donald); they will bear the costs associated with owning the dog.

Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder? Yes. Donald is a pedigree Show Cocker Spaniel registered as Donald Cadbury with the Kennel Club. Both his parents are Show Cocker Spaniels, who are both Kennel Club registered.

Q Will the dog be a distraction? Donald will be kept in Rebecca Kemp's office. Bean will accompany Ian Enwright as he carries out his duties between Riversides School and Newbridge School. The

office is separate from the classrooms / playground area to ensure he only comes into contact with students who are happy to have contact and have parental permission for this, under strict supervision. The dog will also have a space to spend time in classrooms where students can interact safely. The dog will also attend meetings with staff to support further socialisation, following consultation with staff beforehand.

Q Has a risk assessment been undertaken? 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 and a reputable dog behaviourist.

Q Who is responsible for training? Ian Enwright and Rebecca Kemp will be the legal owners of the dogs and as a result, will be responsible for their training.

Appropriate professional training will be obtained and the dog will work towards being trained as a school dog through with advice from the Pets As Therapy charity.

Bean and Donald will also work towards their PAT assessment at 9 months old.

Q How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all? In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted when taken out for short walks in designated areas. These are the area at the front of the school and along the side of the car park.

Only staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered? The dog will be walked regularly and given free time outside when students are in lessons. Parents will be able to give permission in advance to allow their child to be able to walk with a member of staff and the dog during specific times of the school day. This will also be used as a behaviour reward, in line with our behaviour policy. The dog will only have planned and supervised contact with students and visitors. The dog will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to food and water. We will work carefully to ensure the dog's welfare is always considered.

Q How will this be managed where students have allergies? Students will not need to touch the dog, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for students 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. They are given a high quality food and regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.

Q My child is frightened of dogs; how will you manage this? Access to the dog is carefully managed and supervised and students do not need to have close contact with Bean and Donald. We hope to work closely with parents of students who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this.

## Appendix 3

Riversides  
School



### Riversides School School Dog Risk Assessment

Assessment conducted by: R Kemp	Job title: SENCO	Covered by this assessment: School Dog Donald Cadbury
Date of assessment: 12/06/23	Review interval: Termly	Date of next review: 12/09/23

#### Related documents

Health and Safety Policy, School Emergency Incident Procedure, School Dog Policy

Risk Rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	<b>Major</b> Causes major injury, disability or ill-health.	High (H)	High	Medium (M)
	<b>Severe</b> Causes injury requiring medical treatment.	High	Medium	Low (L)
	<b>Minor</b> Causes injury requiring first aid treatment.	Medium	Low	Low

Risk/Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place ? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
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Policy and procedures	M	<p>Rebecca Kemp and the Headteacher ensure that all staff, and where appropriate, pupils and their parents, are aware of and adhere to the following school policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>- First Aid Policy</li> <li>- Animals in School Policy</li> <li>- Behavioural Policy</li> <li>- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy</li> <li>- Fire Safety Policy</li> <li>• The School's Business Officer ensures that the school's insurance covers using the dog for the specific planned activities, e.g. using the dog in a school performance or having a therapy dog.</li> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog is cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.</li> </ul>	Y	•	Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L
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Dogs Welfare	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog has access to fresh, clean water at all times.</li> <li>• • The dog has access to a cool and quiet place where it can be left</li> <li>• undisturbed.</li> <li>• • Pupils leave the dog alone when instructed by their teachers.</li> <li>• • The dog's welfare is considered as a priority when planning the activities that it will participate in.</li> <li>• • If an activity risks the dog's welfare, the activity is amended.</li> <li>• • Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in.</li> <li>• • The headteacher ensures that the dog has adequate and frequent toilet breaks and any waste is appropriately disposed of.</li> </ul>	Y		Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is not over-stimulated, as this can lead to potentially dangerous behaviour.</li> <li>• The dog is not made to participate in potentially distressing activities.</li> <li>• The school complies with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.</li> <li>• The dog is familiar with the members of staff and pupils who are participating in the activity with the dog.</li> <li>• Flash photography is not used when the dog is present.</li> <li>• The dog is given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area, e.g. Mrs Kemp's office and the upstairs staffroom.</li> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog is fit to participate in specific</li> </ul>					
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		<p>activities and is not brought into the school if it is unwell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the dog becomes unwell while at school, the dog's owner takes it home.</li> <li>• Before any activity is carried out, the headteacher ensures everyone participating in the activity understands how to treat and behave around the dog, e.g. not using flash photography, not shouting or clapping and not running around.</li> <li>• Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dog.</li> </ul>					
Site Security		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two adults are appointed to be responsible for the dog.</li> <li>• The site manager ensures that the site is secure and that precautions</li> </ul>	Y		Rebecca Kemp Site Manager	June 2023	L

		<p>are in place to limit the chance of the dog getting loose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is kept on a lead when it is not in its housing or in a secure location, e.g. in the headteacher's office.</li> <li>• The headteacher ensures that all appropriate doors are closed when the dog is participating in an activity, e.g. in a school hall.</li> <li>• The site manager ensures that the premises is secure, e.g. fences are not broken.</li> </ul>					
Evacuation procedures	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where necessary, the school's, Evacuation Policy is reviewed to ensure it includes provisions for the dog.</li> </ul> <p>The person handling the dog during specified activities is responsible for the dog's safety during</p>	Y		Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		an evacuation.					
Disobedience and dangerous behaviour	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The handler is equipped and trained to react to and control any dangerous behaviour.</li> <li>• If the person handling the dog for a specific activity is a pupil, e.g. in a school performance, they are given training to handle the dog, and the pupil and dog are given an opportunity to bond.</li> <li>• Pupils are not expected to handle the dog unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Their parents have provided permission.</li> <li>• - They feel safe and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Y		Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>confident in doing so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - They have received training to handle the dog.</li> <li>• • The dog's obedience is ensured as far as reasonably possible; however, staff, pupils, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable.</li> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that a plan is in place for if the dog is unable to carry out an activity, e.g. if the dog is stressed, and participating in the activity would cause further distress or could lead to dangerous behaviour.</li> <li>• • If the dog is not behaving appropriately during an activity, e.g. it is barking excessively or running away, Rebecca</li> </ul>					
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		Kemp will remove the dog					
Parent notification/permission	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headteacher informs parents that the dog will be present on the school's premises.</li> <li>• Parents are informed of the activities that the dog will be participating in, e.g. the dog will be used as a therapy dog.</li> <li>• The headteacher has given parents a chance to opt out their child for them to be in proximity with, or to handle, the dog.</li> <li>• Parents are informed if they are likely to come into contact with the dog.</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp and Mrs Hill	June 2023	L
Dog's health	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog's designated handler is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on the school premises.</li> <li>• The handler is responsible</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>for permitting people to touch the dog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is permitted to go in the Rebecca Kemp's office, which is kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, pupils, staff and</li> <li>• visitors.</li> <li>• The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises.</li> <li>• The dog is fully inoculated.</li> <li>• The dog goes to the vet for a regular check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases.</li> <li>• On hot days, the handler ensures there are appropriate provisions in place to keep the dog cool and ensure the dog avoids too much activity during the</li> </ul>					
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		hottest part of the day					
Hygiene	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is suitably toilet trained.</li> <li>• The designated area for the dog to defecate is situated away from pupils and staff.</li> <li>• All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a clinical waste bag, and disposed of into a clinical waste bin.</li> <li>• The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces.</li> <li>• Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags and placed into a clinical waste bin.</li> <li>• The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it.</li> <li>• Any pupils, staff and visitors who</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing facilities are provided throughout the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone with an exposed wound who touches the dog has the wound suitably covered.</li> <li>• If the dog is ill with an infection or a disease, it does not return to the school until it has recovered.</li> <li>• Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog</li> </ul>					
Injuries	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is well trained and is used to coming into close contact with people.</li> <li>• Pupils, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler.</li> <li>• Pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to put</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>their face close to the dog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.</li> <li>• Pupils, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated timeslots.</li> <li>• The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people</li> <li>• The dog is trained to not pull on the lead or jump up at people.</li> </ul>					
Dog's Housing and Equipment	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog has housing that meets its physical and psychological needs.</li> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog's housing is: - Secure, e.g. escape proof. - Clean and free from parasites and vermin. - Free from hazards, e.g. sharp edges. - Well-</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>ventilated. - Sheltered from extreme weather. - Set at a suitable temperature, humidity and light level. - Sheltered from noises that may upset it. - Capable of providing a darkened sleeping area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog's housing has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - A comfortable resting area.</li> <li>• - A suitable amount of clean bedding material.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rebecca Kemp ensures that the dog is able to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lie fully stretched out.</li> <li>• - Turn around without touching either the walls or the ceiling.</li> <li>• - Stand in its natural posture.</li> <li>• - Move in its natural manner.</li> <li>• - Rest comfortably.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• • All dog's bedding/housing is checked for defects on</li> </ul>					
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		<p>a weekly basis by the Headteacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dog equipment is stored in the headteacher's office when not in use.</li> <li>• The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips.</li> <li>• Any spillages from the dog's bowls are wiped up immediately.</li> </ul>					
Allergies	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dog.</li> <li>• All pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog.</li> <li>• All pupils, staff and visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog.</li> <li>• A supply of antihistamine tablets is kept</li> </ul>		<p>Advice to be given to anyone suffering an allergic reaction to contact their doctor and get medical advice.</p>	Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L

		<p>in the nurse's office in case anyone has an allergic reaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The headteacher establishes whether parents have allergies to dogs, and activities where parents may come into contact with the dog, e.g. Parents evening</li> </ul>					
Phobias	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dog.</li> <li>• The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.</li> <li>• During busy times, such as breaks, the dog is kept in a safe and secure area away from any commotion.</li> </ul>			Rebecca Kemp	June 2023	L