



Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School

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# Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School

## Dogs in School Guidance

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the rationale, procedures and responsibilities associated with the presence of dogs in Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School. The primary purpose is to support pupil wellbeing and learning through the use of trained Pets As Therapy (PAT) dogs, particularly in reading interventions and emotional support activities.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, visitors and volunteers involved in or affected by the presence of dogs on school premises.

### 3. Roles & Responsibilities

- Headteacher: Overall responsibility for implementation and review of the policy.
- Dog Handler: Ensures the dog is supervised, well-behaved and meets welfare standards.
- Staff: Support implementation of the policy and ensure pupil safety.
- Pupils: Follow school guidance on safe and respectful behaviour around dogs.

### 4. Risk Assessment Summary

A full risk assessment has been conducted and is reviewed annually. Key risks include allergies, fear of dogs, injury, hygiene, disruption and safeguarding. Control measures include parental option for withdrawal, hygiene protocols, supervision and use of PAT-trained dogs only. Overall risk is considered low with controls in place.

### 5. Procedures for Dog Visits

- All dog visits must be pre-approved by the Headteacher.
- Only PAT-trained dogs are permitted.

“Foundations for Life”



- Sessions must be scheduled to avoid disruption to learning.

## 6. Welfare Requirements

- Dogs must be fully vaccinated, wormed, and flea-treated.
- Dogs must have access to water and rest areas.
- Dogs must not be overworked or stressed; sessions should be time-limited.
- Handlers must monitor the dog's wellbeing and remove the dog if signs of distress are observed.

## 7. Safeguarding

All interactions between pupils and dogs must be supervised by a member of staff. The dog handler must be DBS-checked. Sessions must take place in visible areas and no pupil should be left alone with a dog.

## 8. Insurance

All dogs must be covered by appropriate public liability insurance through the Pets As Therapy (PAT) scheme or equivalent. The school's insurance policy has been reviewed to ensure compatibility.

## 9. Parental Consent

Parents will be informed of the purpose and procedures of the dog visits and may opt out at any time.

## 10. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if circumstances change. The Headteacher and Governing Body will monitor implementation and review incident logs, feedback and risk assessments.

Implemented: March 2026

Review: March 2027

