



DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Tranby Independent School is committed to promoting pupils' wellbeing, personal development and emotional resilience within a safe, inclusive and well-regulated environment. The school recognises that a carefully selected and appropriately trained school dog can make a positive contribution to pupils' wellbeing and engagement.

This policy sets out the framework under which a school dog may be present on site, ensuring that safeguarding, health and safety, and the welfare of both pupils and staff are given paramount importance.

The school dog is regarded as a working animal and is present only under controlled and supervised conditions.

2. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The presence of a school dog supports pupils' wellbeing and personal development
- Appropriate safeguards are in place to protect pupils, staff and visitors
- The welfare of the school dog is prioritised at all times
- Clear procedures and expectations are established for all members of the school community
- The school meets its duties under health and safety, safeguarding and equality legislation

3. Educational and Pastoral Rationale

The school dog may be used to support:

- Pupils' emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Calm behaviour and positive relationships
- Confidence, communication and engagement in learning
- Pupils with additional needs or emotional vulnerabilities

The school dog does not replace professional pastoral or therapeutic support and is used only as an additional, supportive measure.

4. The School Dog

- The school dog will be:
 - Of suitable temperament and age
 - Appropriately trained and socialised
 - Insured for public liability
 - Registered with a veterinary practice
- The dog will:
 - Be owned and primarily cared for by a named member of staff
 - Attend school on a limited and planned basis
 - Have access to a designated rest area away from pupils

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Proprietor / Governing Body

- Ensures that appropriate policies and risk assessments are in place

Head of Prep School

- Holds overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy
- Approves the presence, role and arrangements relating to the school dog

School Dog Handler Mr A Sandilands

Has day-to-day responsibility for the supervision, welfare and behaviour of the school dog

- Ensures the dog is under control at all times
- Removes the dog from any situation where risk, stress or distress is identified

Staff

- Support the implementation of the policy

- Ensure pupils follow agreed expectations when interacting with the dog

6. Health and Safety

The school will ensure that:

- The dog is:
 - Fully vaccinated, wormed and flea-treated
 - Subject to regular veterinary checks
 - Clean and well groomed when on site
- Hygiene measures include:
 - Mandatory handwashing following contact with the dog
 - Prohibition of the dog from food preparation and dining areas
 - Cleaning procedures in areas where the dog is present
- Supervision:
 - The dog will never be left unsupervised with pupils
 - Interactions will always be managed by an appropriate adult

7. Allergies, Phobias and Equality Considerations

Tranby Independent School is committed to meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

- Parents and carers will be invited to notify the school of:
 - Allergies
 - Phobias
 - Cultural or religious considerations
- The school will ensure that:
 - No pupil is required to interact with the school dog
 - Reasonable adjustments are made where necessary
 - Alternative arrangements are provided to ensure inclusion

8. Safeguarding

- The presence of the school dog does not alter existing safeguarding procedures
- All safeguarding policies remain fully applicable
- The school dog is not used as a reward, sanction or disciplinary tool

- Any concerns arising from interactions involving the dog will be managed in line with the school's safeguarding and behaviour policies

9. Pupil Conduct and Expectations

Pupils will receive guidance on appropriate behaviour around the school dog, including:

- Approaching calmly and only with permission
- Using gentle and respectful behaviour
- Not feeding or distracting the dog
- Respecting the dog's rest space

Failure to follow expectations may result in restricted interaction, in line with the school's behaviour policy.

10. Risk Assessment

- A written risk assessment will be completed prior to the introduction of the school dog
- Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly and following any incident
- Control measures will be clearly communicated to staff and pupils

11. Complaints and Concerns

Any concerns regarding the school dog should be raised with:

- The School Dog Handler
- The Headteacher

Concerns will be addressed promptly and appropriately in line with the school's complaints procedures.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- Monitored by the Headteacher
- Reviewed annually
- Updated in response to changes in legislation, guidance or school practice

Date Approved: 07.06.25

Review Date: June 2025

Signed: C Sweeting

Acting Headteacher

