

# St. Margaret's Anfield Church of England Primary School

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).  
Therefore, by faith and work, be the change you want to see.

With God, all things are possible.



## School Dog Policy

Ms V Whitfield

### DOCUMENT STATUS

Version	Date	Action	Review Date
Version 1	Sept 19	Produced - V Whitfield	Sept 2020
Version 2	Mar 23	V Whitfield	Jan 24

SMA Primary School has introduced to the school a dog called Skye . She is owned by Vikki Whitifeld (Strategic School Business Manager) and is in school for the purpose of working as a 'Pets as Therapy Dog' (PAT Dog) and 'Reading School Dog'. The introduction phase will follow advice and support provided by Andrew Lang of Paws in Nature.

Skye lives with Vikki Whitfield (SSBM) and has completed behaviour training with Andrew Lang of Paws in Nature who specialises in canine behaviour and rehabilitation. Suitability has been checked through assessment to say that she has an impeccable temperament and is competent and safe to work in the school environment.

A Full and comprehensive risk assessment is in place.

The school will be mindful of the children and staff members who are afraid or have a phobia of dogs.

Public liability insurance to be in place.

The school dog must be under the supervision of Vikki Whitifeld or other named staff (see risk assessment) at all times. No treats should be given to Skye without the express permission of the owner. Skye is toilet trained and will be encouraged to use a specific area marked out in school grounds.

Water must be provided for Skye at all times and in all areas that she is working. For the health and welfare of the dog she must be allowed the opportunity to drink at will.

A comfortable, quiet area must be provided for the dog when she is in school and this will be in the SSBM office/waiting area. Further familiar settle blankets to be available in all areas that she is working.

### **Allergies:**

As part of the admissions process, parents have been informed of the inclusion of Skye within the school environment and have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies. The school will keep a record of all pupils and staff with allergies - with all teaching staff informed. Further parent guidance will be given when for Skye is working with individual children.

Children with allergies will be able to opt out of any interaction with the school dog.

Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with Skye.

Skye will be groomed on a regular basis to decrease the levels of coat allergens and the shedding of hair, along with regular worming treatment.

Skye will not come into school if she is unwell and Vikki Whitfield will inform the school if this occurs.

Skye's welfare is paramount and will be considered at all times.