

# 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	Adopted by FGB	Sept 2020
Version 2	Mar 23	Reviewed and adopted by FGB	Jan 24
Version 3	March 24	Reviewed and adopted by FGB	March 25
Version 4	March 25	Adopted by FGB	March 26
No changes	Feb 2026	Adopted by FGB	Feb 2027

SMA Primary School has introduced to the school a dog called Holly. She is owned by Vikki Whitfield (Strategic School Business Manager) and is in school for the purpose of working as a Therapy Dog.

Holly lives with Vikki Whitfield.

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 and will try to alleviate fear and reassure any child who may be anxious that Holly is a calm dog.

Public liability insurance is in place.

Holly must be under the supervision of Vikki Whitfield or other named staff (see risk assessment) at all times. No treats should be given to Holly without the express permission of the owner. Holly is toilet trained

Water must be provided for Holly 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. These are currently in the visitor waiting area, in SSBM office, and the Admin office.

Further familiar settle blankets can be given to staff if they wish to have Holly in their room/class.

### **Allergies:**

A notice is displayed on the entrance to school to advise that a school dog is present. The admin team also inform visitors of Holly on signing in.

As part of the admissions process, parents have been informed of the inclusion of Holly 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 Holly 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 Holly.

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

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

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