



IMPACT PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

SCHOOL DOG POLICY

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: September 2023

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: September 2024

Policy Statement

At Impact Pupil Referral Unit, we recognize the positive impact that animals can have on the wellbeing of staff and pupils at our school. To this end, we have established this policy to outline the guidelines for the presence of Jack, a German Shorthaired Pointer crossbreed on our school premises.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure the safe and responsible presence of Jack at the Dale Acre site and occasionally at the Oakfield site. Jack's role is to provide support to the wellbeing of individuals on site, including pupils, staff, and visitors. Jack is not a therapy or registered assistance dog but will provide a positive contribution to school life by improving the wellbeing and morale of those who encounter him whilst on site.

Ownership and Responsibility

1. Jack is owned by Ms. Lerner (Assistant Headteacher) and will continue to reside with her, going home with her each night.
2. Ms. Lerner assumes responsibility for the care, behaviour, and supervision of Jack during his visits to the school.
3. Ms. Lerner will ensure that Jack is well-behaved, adequately controlled, and poses no harm or disruption to students, staff, or visitors.
4. Ms. Lerner assumes responsibility for all costs relating to Jack's care.

Insurance

1. Jack is covered by public liability insurance through Dogs Trust, specifically for visits to workplaces.
2. Proof of insurance coverage will be kept on file at the school office.

Visitation Schedule

1. Jack will primarily visit the Dale Acre site, with sporadic visits to the Oakfield site as agreed between the school and Ms. Lerner.
2. The schedule for Jack's visits will be coordinated between Ms. Lerner and the school, with consideration of the best times to support the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

Behaviour and Etiquette

1. Jack will be well-groomed, clean, and free of parasites or illness during all visits.
2. Ms. Lerner will ensure that Jack is under control while on school premises and on a lead when in public spaces around the school.
3. Jack will not enter classrooms, offices, or areas where he may disrupt the learning or working environment unless invited by an adult on site.
4. All students and staff will be encouraged to approach and interact with Jack in a calm and gentle manner.
5. Students and staff will be reminded to wash their hands after interacting with Jack to maintain hygiene standards.

6. Any concerns or incidents related to Jack should be reported promptly to Ms. Lerner or a member of SLT.

Safe Interactions with Students

1. All interactions between Jack and students will be supervised by Ms. Lerner or another responsible adult.
2. Students will be educated on appropriate behaviour around Jack, including not startling or approaching him from behind and remaining gentle when stroking him.
3. Students with allergies or fear of dogs will be accommodated to ensure their comfort and safety.
4. Jack will be introduced to students gradually to gauge their and his comfort levels.
5. Students will not be allowed to feed Jack without prior permission from Ms. Lerner, to prevent any potential allergic reactions or dietary issues.

Health and Safety

1. Jack will be up to date on vaccinations and regular health check-ups.
2. Ms. Lerner will ensure that Jack is clean and free from any offensive odours.
3. If Jack shows signs of illness or distress, he will not be brought to the school until he has received appropriate veterinary care and is cleared for visits.

Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Any necessary amendments will be made to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all individuals on school premises in relation to the presence of Jack.

Conclusion

The presence of Jack, the German Shorthaired Pointer cross, at Impact Pupil Referral Unit is intended to contribute positively to the overall school environment and wellbeing of our students and staff. The co-operation and adherence to this policy by all members of the school community are essential to ensure a safe and harmonious experience for everyone involved, especially during interactions with our students.

Risk Assessment

Risk	Potential Harm/Consequence	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level	Mitigations
Risk to Students, Staff, and Visitors					
Uncontrolled Behaviour	Jack may exhibit uncontrolled behaviours, leading to injury or distress to students, staff, or visitors.	Low	High	Moderate	Ms. Lerner will ensure Jack is trained and well-behaved. Jack will not be permitted on site if he displays uncontrollable behaviour. Jack will always be on a lead or under direct control.
Allergic Reactions	Students, staff, or visitors may have allergies to dogs, leading to allergic reactions.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Ms. Lerner will inform staff and students about Jack's presence in advance. Students with known allergies will not interact with Jack Handwashing stations will be encouraged following interactions with Jack.
Fear or Anxiety	Some students may have a fear of dogs, leading to anxiety or distress.	Low	Moderate	Low	Jack's interactions with students will be gradual and supervised. Students' comfort levels will be assessed, and any signs of anxiety will be addressed.
Risk to Jack					
Overstimulation or Stress	Jack may become overstimulated or stressed due to the school environment.	Low	Moderate	Low	Regular breaks and quiet areas will be provided for Jack. Ms. Lerner will closely monitor Jack for signs of stress and intervene as necessary.

Risk	Potential Harm/Consequence	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level	Mitigations
					Students will be shown how to interact with Jack appropriately and will be supervised at all times.
Health Issues	Jack may experience health issues, which could worsen during visits.	Low	Moderate	Low	<p>Jack will have regular health check-ups.</p> <p>Ms. Lerner will ensure Jack is clean and free from any offensive odours.</p> <p>Jack will not be brought to the school if he shows signs of illness or distress.</p>
Risk to Others					
Zoonotic Diseases	The presence of Jack may pose a minimal risk of zoonotic diseases being transmitted to humans.	Low	Low	Low	<p>- Jack will be regularly examined by a veterinarian. Ms. Lerner will maintain Jack's hygiene and cleanliness.</p> <p>Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands after interacting with Jack.</p>
Risk Level Definitions:					
- Low: Unlikely to occur, minimal harm.					
- Moderate: May occur occasionally, moderate harm.					
- High: Likely to occur, significant harm.					

Risk	Potential Harm/Consequence	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level	Mitigations
- Severity Definitions:					
- Low: Minor injuries, discomfort.					
- Moderate: Injuries requiring minor medical attention, moderate discomfort.					
- High: Severe injuries requiring medical attention, significant discomfort.					

This risk assessment has been conducted to ensure the safe interaction and presence of Jack at the Impact Pupil Referral Unit. The mitigations listed are intended to reduce and manage the identified risks effectively. It is essential that all staff, students, and visitors follow these guidelines to maintain a safe environment during Jack's visits.