

College Dog

Salisbury 6th Form College

Date of last review	September 2026
Date of next review	September 2027
Review period	Annual
Owner	Business Manager

Introduction

Students can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, a dog can have a calming effect and students take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a college environment?

Although there is a risk to bringing a dog onto the college premises, this can be adequately mitigated by a thorough risk assessment. The risk assessment is available on the college website.

Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the college site at any time unless specifically authorised by the Academy Leader. This includes drop off and collection times. This guidance outlines the measures put in place to allow the college dog to be present.

College Policy

The dog will be owned by Mrs Nicola Miller. The Academy Governance Committee (AGC) has the right to refuse entry to the dog. Only the college dog is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless they are a known therapy or assistance dog and the Academy Leader has been informed beforehand.

The college dog is a Labradoodle, chosen because it is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with students and is very sociable and friendly.

Staff, parents and students have been informed by newsletter and a Google Classroom article that a dog will be in college. The risk assessment will be reviewed annually.

Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog. All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in college and any issues relayed by the office staff to the appropriate member of the SLT.

If the dog is ill, she will not be allowed into college. The dog will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of a trained adult. Students must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.

Appropriate Behaviour Around the Dog

Students should be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog:

- Students should remain calm around the dog
- They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog
- Students should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up. Students should never go near or disturb the dog if it is sleeping or eating
- Students must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog
- Everyone must wait until the dog is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking her
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of students, the dog could become nervous and agitated. The adult in charge of the dog must ensure that they monitor the situation

Dogs express their feelings through their body language:

- Growling or bearing of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened
- Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous
- If the dog is displaying any of these warning signs she will be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment
- Students should not eat close to the dog
- Students must not feed or treat the dog unless instructed on how to do so by the trained adult
- Students should be careful to stroke the dog on her body, chest, chin and back and not by her face or top of head
- Students should always wash their hands after handling a dog
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately

Appropriately trained staff will maintain records and anecdotal evidence of the work and impact of the college dog.

The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mrs N Miller.

Reporting an Issue with the Dog

Any concerns about the dog must be passed to Mrs N Miller and Mrs K Clarkson as soon as possible.

If appropriate, the incident will be recorded on Every compliance.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Academy Governance Committee (AGC) has a responsibility to ensure that the college has a written guidance document for dogs in college
- The Academy Leader is responsible for implementing this guidance
- Teachers, staff, students, parents and visitors are required to abide by this guidance

The college will support learning about dogs and how best to behave around our dog. This will include highlighting that not all dogs are well trained and that caution must be used around unknown dogs outside of the college.