

Policy for School Dog

Meanwood Church of England Primary School



Approved by:	Jamie Chapman	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed on:	September 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2026	

Vision and Values

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This policy has due regard to the following ethos:

At Meanwood C of E Primary School we will continuously strive to ensure that everyone in our school is treated with respect and dignity. Each person in our school will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential with positive regard to gender, ethnicity, cultural and religious background, faith, sexuality or disability. The school will provide an inclusive curriculum, which will meet the needs of all its pupils including those with disabilities, special educational needs, from all cultural backgrounds and faiths and pupils with English as an additional language.

Values

Open hearts

Open Minds

Open Arms

Our vision is that every person is valued, nurtured and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Our vision is underpinned by Jesus' commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the role and management of the school dog, Theo, who is owned by Hazel Tate. Theo is not a trained therapy dog but is present in school to provide emotional support and help children who benefit from assistance with regulation and wellbeing.

2. Purpose of Having a School Dog

Theo's presence in school aims to:

- Support children who experience emotional dysregulation.
- Provide a calming and comforting presence.
- Encourage positive behaviour and emotional resilience.
- Enhance the overall wellbeing of pupils through structured interactions.

3. Ownership and Responsibility

Theo is owned by Hazel Tate, who is responsible for his care, welfare, and supervision while on school premises. Hazel ensures that Theo's health and vaccinations are up to date and that he is appropriately groomed and exercised.

4. Supervision and Access

Theo will always be supervised by Hazel Tate or a designated adult.

Pupils will only interact with Theo under adult supervision and with parental consent where appropriate.

Theo will not be allowed to roam freely around the school and will have designated areas for rest and interaction.

5. Health and Safety

Theo is regularly checked by a vet and is fully vaccinated.

Hygiene protocols are in place to ensure cleanliness after interactions.

Any incidents or concerns involving Theo will be recorded and reviewed.

6. Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment has been completed and is reviewed annually to ensure the safety of pupils, staff, and Theo.

7. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate and effective.

Feedback from staff, pupils, and parents will be considered as part of the review process.

8. Conclusion

Theo is a valued part of our school community, offering support to children who benefit from emotional regulation strategies. His presence is carefully managed to ensure a safe and positive experience for all.