



Have courage, grow roots, shine bright!

Policy:	Dog Safeguarding Policy
This policy was created/reviewed (please delete as appropriate):	November 2026
By name:	Sally Cooper
Position:	Chair of Governors
Date of next review:	November 2027



Core values: compassion, courage, resilience and responsibility.

Mission Statement

'Nurturing children to blossom into compassionate and resilient members of our community'.

Values and aims:

- To create a stimulating learning environment both indoors and outdoors where children feel safe, are eager to learn and have fun.
- To offer a broad and balanced curriculum which is enhanced through our unique characteristics.
- As a village school, maintain excellent communication and develop links with the community.
- To celebrate and share success however small.
- To foster an understanding of the wider world, encouraging imagination and a sense of wonder.
- To create the foundations for a lifelong love of learning.

Dog Safeguarding Policy

The welfare of our animals is central to what we do. We are advocates for our animals; this allows them to be the best therapy dogs possible.

The following safeguarding policy has been created to ensure the dogs wellbeing and physical health are always considered when working with them.

This policy is specific to **Winnie, School Therapy Dog**, with the expert support of PAWS Therapy Dog Training, working with members of staff (Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott) and pupils at Hazelbury Bryan Primary School.

- Visits must be mutually beneficial for the dog and the organisation/individual they are visiting. This will be monitored closely.
- **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** will only use positive methods when training and supporting their dog.
- **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** have completed the PAWS dog behaviour/stress signal training allowing them to be aware of stress signals their dog may exhibit.
- **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** will withdraw their dog if they feel their dog Winnie is stressed. A stressed dog will not be able to support the client effectively.
- **Winnie, School Therapy Dog**, must be well exercised before they attend sessions/visits and have regular (non-negotiable) breaks if they are onsite for a full 4-hour period. The definition of a break is non-contact time away from all other humans and dogs. It can be quietly resting or going for a walk or sniff.
- Water must be available at all times.
- Once **Winnie** is comfortable in their environment they may support the client off lead. This is to allow **Winnie** free choice so they can opt out of an interaction if they need to. This supports their stress levels allowing them to regulate themselves. (prior permission required).
- Always be dog led. Asking them to sit, stay, come can be used but we actively encourage **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** to observe the dogs body language to see if they are enjoying the activity. Over

working and or expecting too much from them can result in learnt helplessness behaviours or over aroused stressed behaviours.

- Visits to organisations/Therapy spaces will last a maximum of 4 hours. If the maximum contract is in place several non-restrictive/ compulsory breaks and rest times must be included to allow **Winnie the Therapy Dog** to recuperate. 4 hours does not mean 4 hours contact time with clients.
- A safe, quiet rest area must be provided where the dog will not have to engage with humans. This area must be a safe space that no one other than the dogs' caretakers have access to.
- If **Winnie** is in season, under the weather, ill or injured they should not work. You know your dog best and should advocate for their needs.
- **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** will communicate, set boundaries and manage the expectations of the visit to ensure a mutually beneficial visit takes place. Taking into account how many people are engaging with **Winnie**, the environment and the activities **Winnie** is taking part in.
- **Mrs Waring, Miss Brown and Mrs Scott** will seek guidance from our trainers and/or your own positive dog trainer if you have any concerns for your dog's health/behaviour. If we work as a team, we can support our PAWS dogs positively.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Board and updated sooner where changes in legislation, statutory guidance, safeguarding requirements, technology, or school practice requires this.