



SCHOOL DOG POLICY

1 Introduction

Research has shown many benefits of having school dogs in school settings. Leominster Primary School would like to introduce the use of a school dog into the emotional well-being provision at school. This policy is designed to set out to students, parents and visitors the reasons for having a school dog at Leominster Primary School (Section 2 – The benefits of a school dog) and the rules and responsibilities to ensure the safety of students, staff, visitors and the school dog (Sections 3 and 4 – Principles and Code of Conduct). Although there is a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment, this can be mitigated against with a robust risk assessment to ensure the safety of all students, staff and visitors (Appendix A - Risk Assessment).

2 The benefits of a school dog

School dogs have been proven to help develop students' reading skills, improve behaviour, attendance and academic confidence, as well as increasing student understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills. At Leominster Primary School, we hope that a dog will be a beneficial addition to the therapeutic offer, acting as an adjunct to the interventions already offer and promoting engagement for students who may have found it difficult to access talking therapies in the past.

Animal assisted therapy can:

- Teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills
- Help individual develop social skills
- Be soothing and support the development of rapport between the professional and client, and improve individual's skills to pick up social cues imperative to human relationships
- Professionals can process that information and use it to help clients see how their behaviour affects others
- Therapy dogs have been shown to support emotional regulation through the positive impact on the autonomic nervous system
- A recent report highlighted children working with therapy dogs experienced increased motivation for learning, resulting in improved outcomes
- Therapy dogs are being used to support children with social and emotional learning needs, which in turn can assist with literacy development

Research into the effects of therapy dogs in schools is showing a range of benefits including:

- Increase in school attendance
- Gains in confidence

- Decreases in learner anxiety behaviours resulting in improved learning outcomes, such as increases in reading and writing levels
- Positive changes towards learning and improved motivation, and enhanced relationships with peers and teachers due to experiencing trust and unconditional positive regard from a therapy dog. This in turn helps students learn how to express their feelings and enter into more trusting relationships.

2.1 Confidence benefits

“If children are partnered with a dog to read to, for example, the dog provides comfort, encourages positive social behaviour, enhances self-esteem, motivates speech and inspires children to have fun and enjoy the non-judgemental experience”

Bark & Read – The Kennel Club (<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/barkandread>)

2.2 SEN benefits

‘Classroom dogs can also support students with SEN such as Emotional Behavioural Disorder (EBD) gain skills in responsibility, empathy, and respect (Anderson & Olson, 2006). In one ASD classroom, a pre–post study found that the presence of a dog significantly improved social functioning and enthusiasm for school attendance (O’Haire et al., 2014).’

2.3 Mental Health Benefits

“There is emerging evidence to suggest that Animal Assisted Psychotherapy improves the efficacy of mental health treatments in self-selected adolescent populations via reductions in primary symptomatology, and via secondary factors that improve therapeutic processes and quality, such as engagement and retention”.

[Incorporating animal-assisted therapy in mental health treatments for adolescents: A systematic review of canine assisted psychotherapy](#) Melanie G. Jones, Simon M. Rice, Susan

M. Cotton. 2019; 14(1), 2019.

2.4 Behaviour benefits

Schools that have a school dog have the following listed as some of the many benefits:

- dogs can help children develop empathy skills, encourage them to act respectfully and improve relationships between children
- reading to a dog can be beneficial for reluctant readers. There is less pressure and less perceived judgement when reading to a dog
- dogs can have a calming effect on children
- they can help children develop emotional literacy
- dogs can encourage children who are typically more withdrawn, to engage with and participate in school life
- they can help children to regulate their own behaviour
- dogs can reduce stress and improve wellbeing for both children and staff
- they can improve self-esteem for children.

3 Principles

3.1 The Head Teachers and The Governors have agreed to the presence of two school dogs at Leominster Primary School.

3.2 Only the school dog is allowed on the premises. No other dogs are permitted unless the head teacher has approved their visit.

3.3 The school dogs are a Labrador and a Greyhound. Both dog breeds are selected for their temperament.

3.4 Mrs Beaumont-Pike is the legal owner of Maggie and has full responsibility for her welfare. Mrs Beaumont-Pike will pay all expenses relating to pet insurance, vaccinations, flea and worm treatment, food and maintenance costs. Mrs N Thomas (Mrs Rees' neighbour) is the legal owner of Mallie and has full responsibility for her welfare. Mrs N Thomas will pay all expenses relating to pet insurance, vaccinations, flea and worm treatment, food and maintenance costs. Mrs Rees is Mallie's handler and will be responsible for checking care plan is in place.

3.5 A risk assessment which has been approved by both the governors and the Headteachers and this will be reviewed annually.

3.6 The dogs will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees or other trained staff members.

3.7 The dogs are covered by the school's Public Liability Insurance policy with Cliverton and the Business Manager has responsibility for ensuring this remains on the school's policy during the presence of a school dog at Leominster Primary School. The dogs are fully insured by their owners.

3.8 Staff, parents and students will be informed in writing that a dog will be in school.

3.9 Parents will need to sign the consent form in order for their children to come into contact with the school dogs.

3.10 The presence of a school dogs will made clear to visitors upon their arrival at the School reception.

3.11 Only staff trained to handle the dog will have permission to do so. Whilst training this will be limited to their owners and handlers, Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees

4 Code of Conduct

4.1 Staff Responsibilities

4.1.1 Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees will know the whereabouts of the dogs and which staff are supervising at all times.

4.1.2 If one of the dog is ill she will not be allowed into school. Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees have responsibility for ensuring appropriate alternative care for the dog if she is not able to be in the school on a given day.

4.1.3 Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees is responsible for ensuring the training of the dog.

4.1.4 The school dogs must be kept on a lead when moving around the school.

4.1.5 The school dogs will be kept in the School Business Manager's Room or the Head Teachers' office.

4.1.6 Staff, visitors and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the school dogs. The office and handlers will keep a list of all students and staff with a reported allergy to dogs.

4.1.7 Students must never be left alone with the dogs and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.

4.1.8 Students will be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dogs before any interaction during a session or visit.

4.1.9 If the dog is surrounded by a large number of children, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore, the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation. If the dog is displaying any warning signs such as growling or flattening of her ears, she should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment by the trained staff member handling her.

4.1.10 Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by the trained dog handling staff only.

4.1.11 Mrs Rees and Mrs Beaumont-Pike will maintain records and anecdotal evidence of the work and impact of the school dog to better inform research into the benefits of animal assisted therapy.

4.2 Student Responsibilities

4.2.1 Students whose parents have withdrawn consent are not allowed to attend school dog sessions.

4.2.2 Students should be careful to stroke the dog on her body, chest, back and not by her face or top of head.

4.2.3 Students are not allowed to approach or disturb the dog whilst she is sleeping or eating.

4.2.4 Students are not allowed to play roughly with or around the dogs.

4.2.5 Students must wait until the school dog is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking her.

4.2.6 Students are not allowed to eat during the dogs' visits to classes.

4.2.7 Students must always wash their hands before and after stroking and handling the dog.

4.2.8 Students understand that any deliberate violence or threatening behaviour towards the dog will result in a fixed term suspension.

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs?

A: The legal owner of Maggie is Mrs Beaumont-Pike and the legal owner of Mallie is Mrs N Thomas (Mrs Rees' neighbour). They will bear the costs associated with owning the dog; the school budget will support liability insurance and training costs only where appropriate.

Q Will the dog be a distraction to students' learning?

A: The dogs will be kept in either the Headteachers' office or the School Business Manager's office. When this is not possible, the dog will be cared for in areas of school which are not accessible to students (The Head Teachers Office and the Administration office). The dog will also attend meetings with staff to support further socialisation, and support staff well-being, following consultation with staff beforehand.

Q Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

A: Yes, we have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources, including other schools that successfully have a school dog.

Q Who is responsible for training?

A: Mrs Beaumont-Pike and Mrs Rees are the handlers of the dogs and as a result, will be responsible for their training. Appropriate professional training will be obtained and the dog will work towards being trained as a school dog in dog training classes with advice from the All Positive Dog Services

Q How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?

A: In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted when taken out for short walks around the grounds.

Q What if my child is scared of dogs? Will they be forced to be in the same room as the dog?

A: The dog will be kept in the Headteachers' office or the School Business Manager's office and the handlers will ensure the school dogs only come into contact with children who are happy to have contact and have parental permission for this, under strict supervision.

A student will not be forced to be in contact with the dogs at any time against their wishes. We hope to work closely with parents of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this using evidence-based interventions such as graded exposure.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A: The dogs' welfare will be carefully monitored. The dogs will be walked regularly and given free time outside of sessions to rest and play.

The dogs will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have appropriate access to food and water.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A: Children will not need to touch the dogs or be in the same room as the dogs at any point which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. We already manage a number of allergies at school

and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies. They will be given a high-quality food and regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.

5 The School Dogs



Mallie



Maggie

Appendix A – Copy of School Dog Risk Assessment

Appendix B – Copy of School Dog Consent Form

Agreed by the school's Governing Body on 8th December 2023

Signed Chair of Governors

Review date: December 2024

APPENDIX A

Leominster School

School Dog Risk Assessment

Assessment conducted by:	Job title: Headteachers	Covered by this assessment: Staff, pupils, visitors
Date of assessment: November 2023	Review interval: Annual	Date of next review: July 2024

Related documents
Health and Safety Policy, First Aid Policy, Staff Wellbeing Policy, (COSHH) Risk Assessment, Ill Health and Infectious Disease Risk Assessment, Site Safety Checklist, Health and Safety Classroom Checklist, Equality and Diversity Policy, Positive Handling Policy.

Risk rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	Major Causes major physical injury, harm or ill health.	High (H)	H	Medium (M)
	Severe Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	H	M	Low (L)
	Minor Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	M	L	L

Learning Outcomes:

- The value of pet therapy is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication.

- Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the wellbeing of children and lower anxiety.
- School dogs will aim to make the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

Permissions:

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it may have positive benefits. All parents will need to consent if they wish for their child to come into contact with the dogs.

Review:

The risk assessment is reviewed annually and included within this is an evaluation of the impact that the school dogs are having on learning outcomes.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Helen Rees is the designated handler for Mallie. Sandra Beaumont-Pike is the second handler for Mallie
- Sandra Beaumont-Pike is the designated handler for Maggie. Helen Rees is the second handler for Maggie

Dog Status and Context:

- Prior to being in school with children present, Mallie and Maggie have been introduced to the school environment so they are conditioned to the site.
- Mallie and Maggie will become well known to the school staff and the children currently at the school.

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Policy and procedures	<u>H</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The headteachers ensure that all staff, pupils and their parents, are aware of the use of School dogs. The school ensures that the insurance covers using the dogs for the specific planned use for work in school and SEMH provision for pupils. Public liability insurance is in place which covers liability for a school dog where a full risk assessment has been completed. The headteachers ensures that the dogs are cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. 	<u>Y</u>	<u>Headteacher</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>
Dog's welfare	<u>H</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dogs have access to fresh, clean water at all times. The dogs have access to a cool and quiet place where they can be left undisturbed to rest/recover/sleep. Pupils leave the dog alone when instructed by their teachers. The dog's welfare is considered as a priority when planning the activities that it will participate in. If an activity risks the dog's welfare, the activity is amended. Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in. The designated handlers ensure that the dogs have adequate and frequent toilet breaks and any waste is appropriately disposed of. The dogs are not over-stimulated, as this can lead to potentially dangerous behaviour. The dogs are not made to participate in potentially distressing activities. The school complies with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. 	<u>Y</u>	<u>Designated Handlers</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dogs are familiar with the members of staff and pupils who are participating in the activity with the dog. • Flash photography is not used when the dog is present. • The dogs are given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area, e.g. the headteacher's office, business managers office, playground, school fields. • The designated handlers ensure that the dogs are fit to participate in specific activities and is not brought into the school if they are unwell. • If one of the dogs becomes unwell while at school, the dog's owner/handler takes it home. • The dogs will not be in on the same days. • Before any activity is carried out, the designated handlers ensure everyone participating in the activity understands how to treat and behave around the dogs, e.g. not using flash photography, not shouting or clapping and not running around. • All children will be aware of the schools 'dog code of conduct.' These will be displayed in every classroom to ensure all pupils behave appropriately round the dogs. • All pupils have had dog awareness assemblies and KS2 pupils have also attended workshops. • Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dogs. • The dogs will have a specific harness on when they are working. When resting they will not have this on. 				

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rooms where the dogs are based will have gates attached to the door. This will indicate, with a sign displayed, when the dog is in. This will ensure no one enters the room without being aware that the dog is present. 				
Site Security	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two adults are appointed to be responsible for the dogs. The site team ensures that the site is secure and that precautions are in place to limit the chance of the dog getting loose. The designated handlers ensure that all appropriate doors are closed when the dogs are participating in an activity, e.g. in a school hall. The site team ensures that the premises is secure, e.g. fences are not broken. 	Y	<u>Designated handlers</u> <u>Site Team</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>
Evacuation procedures	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary, the school's evacuation procedures include provisions for the dog. The person handling the dogs during specified activities are responsible for the dog's safety during a lockdown or evacuation. Where possible, the school dogs to be present for the sounding of the alarms outside of school hours to observe their response If the school dog manages to escape from an adult during the evacuation, the adult must still evacuate immediately and notify staff outside of the dog's absence. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>School business manager</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>
Disobedience, over excitement	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two school dogs will receive training from All Positive Dog Services, and will complete socialising and conditioning within the school environment. All Positive Dog Services will carry out the 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
or dangerous behaviour		<p>assessment of the school dogs in the school environment to check their suitability for use in school. This is a requirement of the insurance with Cliverton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The handlers are equipped and trained to react to and control any dangerous behaviour. • Pupils are not expected to handle the dogs unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their parents have provided permission. - They feel safe and confident in doing so. - They have received training to handle the dogs. • The dog's obedience is ensured as far as reasonably possible; however, staff, pupils, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable. • The designated handlers ensure that a plan is in place for if one of the dogs is unable to carry out an activity, e.g. if the dogs are stressed, and participating in the activity would cause further distress or could lead to dangerous behaviour. • If one of the dogs is not behaving appropriately during an activity, e.g. it is barking excessively or running away, the designated handler removes the dog and a contingency plan is implemented. • Children are not left with either dog unsupervised. • Pupils are taught the impact of their actions in relation to life and in the case of the dogs. This is on a continuous basis and forms part of the PSHE curriculum. 		<u>School business manager</u>		

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will have a dog 'code of behaviour' to follow when interacting with dogs. • Pupils will be taught to stand still with their arms crossed or by their sides to prevent the dog from chasing them or engaging in boisterous play. • The designated handlers ensure that the dogs do not interfere with the school environment or that they display nuisance behaviours. If necessary, they may exclude the dog from entering specific areas. • The designated handlers discourage the dogs from jumping, scratching or licking and are confident that the dogs will respond to instruction of this nature. • Should an injury to a child, staff or visitor occur they will be assessed by a trained First Aider. They will administer appropriate medical treatment and advise the parents/carers of the child, or the person injured to seek medical advice as to whether tetanus inoculation is appropriate. The suitability of the school dogs will then be re-assessed by the Headteachers and Safeguarding Lead. • If a claim is made against the school then the designated handler will use the respective insurance policies to reimburse. 				
Parent notification/permission	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headteachers inform parents that the dog will be present on the school's premises. • Parents will sign a consent form if they wish for their child to have contact with the dogs. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are informed of the activities that the dog will be participating in, e.g. the dog will be used as school dogs. The headteacher obtains consent from parents for pupils to be in proximity with, or to handle, the dogs. Parents are informed if they are likely to come into contact with the dogs. 				
Dog's health	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog's designated handler is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on the school premises. The handler is responsible for permitting people to touch the dog. The dogs are permitted to go in their base areas which are kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, pupils, staff and visitors. The dogs are given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises. The dogs are fully inoculated. The dogs go to the vet for a regular check-up, to identify whether the dogs have any transmittable diseases and for worming or flea treatment at the Veterinary Surgeons advised intervals eg 6 monthly.. The dog's claws are regularly trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches. On hot days, the handler ensures there are appropriate provisions in place to keep the dog cool and ensure the dog avoids too much activity during the hottest part of the day. The dog's owners have financial responsibility regarding feeding the dog and any day to day costs. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>Business manager</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	L

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Hygiene	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dogs are suitably toilet trained. The dogs are of an acceptable hygienic standard, ie. not wet or muddy The designated area for the dog to defecate is situated away from pupils and staff. All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a clinical waste bag, and disposed of into a clinical waste bin. The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces. Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags and placed into a clinical waste bin. The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. Any pupils, staff and visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing facilities are provided throughout the school. Anyone with an exposed wound who touches one of the dogs has the wound suitably covered. If one of the dogs is ill with an infection or a disease, it does not return to the school until it has recovered. Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>Business manager</u> <u>Site Manager</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	L
Injuries	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dogs are well trained and are used to coming into close contact with people. Pupils, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. 		<u>Headteachers</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dogs. • The dogs are prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. • Pupils, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dogs during allocated timeslots. • The dogs are provided with a place they can go to get away from people. • The dogs are trained to not pull on the lead or jump up at people. 	Y	<u>School business manager</u>		<u>L</u>
Dog's housing and equipment	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designated handler ensures that the dogs have housing that meets its physical and psychological needs. • The children are taught that this place belongs to the dog and is their 'safe' place so do not attempt to invade it. • The designated handler ensures that the dog's housing is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure, e.g. escape proof with gates attached to the door. - Clean and free from parasites and vermin. - Free from hazards, e.g. sharp edges. - Well-ventilated. - Sheltered from extreme weather. - Set at a suitable temperature, humidity and light level. - Sheltered from noises that may upset it. • The designated handler ensures that the dog's housing has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comfortable resting area. - A suitable amount of clean bedding material. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>School business manager</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designated handler ensures that the dogs are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lie fully stretched out. - Turn around without touching either the walls or the ceiling. - Stand in its natural posture. - Move in its natural manner. - Rest comfortably. • All dog's bedding/housing is checked for defects on a weekly basis by the headteacher. • All dog equipment is stored in the designated office areas when not in use. • The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips. • Any spillages from the dog's bowls are wiped up immediately. 				
Allergies	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dogs. All pupils and staff will then have a HCP and medication in school if deemed necessary. • All pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to touch their face after touching the dogs. • All pupils, staff and visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dogs. • A supply of antihistamine medication is kept in the front office in case anyone has an allergic reaction. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>School business manager</u> <u>Administrative Team</u> <u>First Aid Leader</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The headteacher establishes whether parents have allergies to dogs, and activities where parents may come into contact with the dog, e.g. at a school performance, are amended as necessary. Students are not allowed to eat around the school dogs. The school dogs will not go into the dining hall at lunchtime nor will they be allowed into the kitchen. 				
Phobias	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dogs. Where there are students and staff with phobias, every effort is made to segregate the school dogs from those with phobias. In the above case the dogs are prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. If necessary, during busy times, such as breaks, the dogs are kept in a safe and secure area away from any commotion. Students are never forced to interact with the school dogs. 	Y	<u>Headteachers</u> <u>School business manager</u>	<u>December 2023</u>	<u>L</u>

APPENDIX B



Learn, Progress, Succeed

School Dog Consent Form

Mallie is a 10-month-old Labrador owned and cared for by a friend of Mrs Rees.

Maggie is a 7-year-old greyhound owned and cared for by Mrs Beaumont-Pike.

Both dogs are gentle, exceptionally friendly and love spending time with people.

There are many benefits to having a school dog and we believe it has a positive impact on various aspects of school life. Numerous research studies have shown the benefits of school dogs in schools.

Dogs teach children responsibility, develop care, consideration and empathy. They teach children compassion, socialisation, promote children's enjoyment at being in school, wellbeing, increase confidence, enjoyment and progress when reading.

Your consent is required in order for your child to interact with the school dog.

I agree that my child will be expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- There must be an authorised adult present during all interactions
- always approach the school dog calmly (voice and movement)
- always approach the school dog slowly
- never run up to the school dog
- to start an interaction, the back of a hand will be offered for the school dog to sniff
- keep noise levels low during interaction with the school dog
- only the authorised adult can move any of the school dogs' resources, including food and treat
- only the supervising adult can participate in the school dogs' toileting needs
- no visiting adult or child will give them any food/treats
- there must not be any interaction with the school dogs whilst they are eating
- after all interactions with the school dog, hands must be washed with soap and water/ hand gel

If the guidelines are not followed, interaction with the school dog will be stopped immediately. At all times of interaction, there must be an authorised adult who takes the lead role when interacting with the school dog.

These guidelines apply to all adults and children.

Once interaction permission has been given, no child shall be forced to interact with the school dog if this makes them feel unhappy or uncomfortable in anyway.

At all times, interaction with the school dog must be controlled and safe for adults, children and the school dog

For further information, a full Leominster Primary School Policy is available upon request.

I consent for my child to interact with the school dogs

I do not consent to my child interact with the school dog

Parent/Carer: _____ **Date:** _____

Student's name	
Animal Allergies	
Animal Phobias	
Any negative experience with animals (if yes please provide details)	

November 2023