Grange Academy

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Article 23: *You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.*

Dog Policy

Policy Status: Other

Review Cycle: Annually

Owner: Rachel Timms Headteacher **Date:** January 2026

Approved by: SLT **Date:** January 2026

Review Date: January 2027

At Grange Academy we value the impact of animals within our curriculum. As part of this, a collie will be in school. The dog is owned and cared for at home by a member of staff and fully trained to be around our livestock and to interact safely with animals. The dog is classed as resident as he spends a significant amount of time onsite.
The human-dog bond can change lives, making each day happier and more complete, and we have clear guidance to ensure that this partnership is successful.

Responsibility

The Owner

Andrea Foster is the Legal owner.

For dog welfare and pupil safety it is imperative that any dog in a school environment be supervised by the owner at all times. The school environment has the potential to be challenging for the dog; the owner, who knows the dog best, must ensure that as soon as the dog is indicating (through signs which might be either subtle, such as looking away, lip licking, or yawning out of context, or more overt, such as baring teeth and growling) that they need to be removed from a situation, this must be actioned quickly and safely. This responsibility should not be passed, even temporarily, to someone else.

The owner, Andrea Foster is responsible for:

- Ensuring the everyday welfare and care of the dog
- Maintaining medical treatment including immunisations
- Registering the dog with a vet
- Training the dog
- Remaining with the dog at all times when on school site.

The Headteacher:

- Overseeing that the owner fulfils all of the duties above
- Ensuring appropriate insurance is in place
- Ensuring that all staff, pupils and families are aware of why the dog is in school and protocols to be followed

This is written with guidance from

https://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/school-dogs/school%20dogs%20guide.pdf
https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/static/bccea094-8974-47f7-9431347f95fe8f43/Dogs-on-School-Sites-Guidance-for-School-Leaders.pdf

Hazard	Risk	Who is at Risk	Controls in Place/Action Required
Dog becomes over excited causing injury or distress	Bites and scratches	Pupils Staff	Dog will be fully supervised and trained not to jump or bite. Pupils will not be left unsupervised with the dog Dog will be on a lead at all times unless undertaking a specific training task. Pupils will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will continually be given to children in whole school assembly, specific workshops from outside professionals, including the Blue Cross / Dog Trust, in class time and PSHE lessons. Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies 'standing tall like a tree'). The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed. A member of staff will always have the school dog on the lead and have responsibility to ensure that they have control of him. Pupils will be given a choice about whether they wish to interact with the dog; they will be taught to give him a treat with a flat hand.
Noise and barking	Noise nuisance	Pupils, Staff, Neighbours	Dog will be trained from birth to be around pupils and animals Andrea Foster will ensure the dog is appropriately socialised
Faeces and Urine	Risk of catching disease	Pupils, Staff, Neighbours	Dog is vaccinated and wormed Dog will not be near any food preparation areas. The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will remind children of the importance of washing hands on return to school.
Allergies	Risk of allergic reaction	Pupils, Staff	Parental/ Carer consent sought and have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the Andrea Foster, class teachers and office staff. Staff members will also be asked to inform the Headteacher of any allergies. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Pupils and staff will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Wounds on exposed skin will be covered. Flea treatment will be carried out monthly and worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals. If the dog is sick, he will not come into school until he is better.

Dog being injured or scared	Harm to the dog	The dog	Pupils will be fully supervised at all times. Pupils will be prepared to know how to interact safely with the dog and reminded using their favoured communication method. Pupils misbehaving will be removed, calmed and undertake restorative work
Costs	Unexpected financial implications	Grange Academy Finances The dog	The owner, Andrea Foster is responsible for the dog's food, vet bills, insurance and daily upkeep. School will ensure the cost of liability insurance is covered