**SENNEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL DOG POLICY**

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Vision**

Sennen Primary is a fully inclusive academy in Cornwall. It is part of TPAT, a multi-academy trust set up to raise the standards of education throughout Cornwall. The Academy’s aim is to provide the best education for our children; one that recognises their individual needs and supports them to achieve the very best from their education; praising and challenging; building confidence, self-worth and life skills and equipping them for their secondary education and life beyond the academy.

**Introduction**

It is the Headteachers responsibility to ensure that staff members have read the policy and risk assessment.

**Studies show that encouraging children to take an interest in animals can have a positive effect on them and can be used to improve human and animal welfare. Some of the benefits have been identified as follows:**

**School animals have been found to:**

* motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest, enthusiasm and enjoyment of animals
* encourage a respect and reverence for life in pupils and thereby improve their relationships with other pupils, parents and teachers
* foster a sense of responsibility in children
* teach children to nurture and respect life
* lead to the development of hobbies /careers in animal care
* improve academic achievement

**Animals in schools also have social benefits for the school community:**

* enhance the learning environment, creating a sense of security and family warmth for the pupils
* encourage the involvement of parents and the wider community in school activity
* help to promote the school as an important nurturing influence in the community

**Handling Animals**

If animals will be handled, the most important is the maintenance of good hygiene.

When handling animals:

* do not consume food or drink
* cover any open cuts or abrasions on the exposed skin of hands and arms with waterproof adhesive dressings
* wash your hands with soap and water before and directly after handling animals
* keep animals away from the face

**Diseases, parasites and allergies**

* The likelihood of diseases being passed on from pet animals is low. However allergic reactions to mammals, birds and a few other animals cannot be discounted. These might result from handling the animals or just from being near them and be detected by the development of skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose or breathing difficulties.
* Hand washing soon after handling animals will help.
* Teachers should watch for the development of allergic reactions in pupils who come into contact with the animals.
* Children with allergies specific to animals are identified via the Confidential Admission Form. Children known to have allergic reactions to animals have restricted access to those that may trigger a response. In most cases, an allergic reaction will subside once the animal and the affected person are kept apart; in extreme cases, we seek medical advice.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School Dog Risk Assessment.

This can be found on Smartlog.