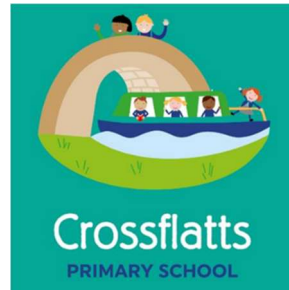


Our Vision and Values

'Come as you are and leave at your best'

'We are a family, who learn how to flourish and then fly high.'



Dogs on School Grounds Policy

Date policy last reviewed: July 2026

Signed by:

Nicola Bennett Headteacher Date: 17/07/2026

Mary Morgan Chair of governors Date: 17/07/2026

Areas for consideration

1. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils.
2. Dogs being brought in the school as dog mentors or for an educational activity.
3. Members of the public using the school grounds to walk their dogs

The Education Authority has recommended strongly to schools that dogs are only allowed on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff or members of the public as a registered service dog. The Governors have considered this advice seriously and have agreed to accept this recommendation.

1. Parents/Carers bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times

Dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. For these reasons, dogs are not permitted access onto school premises.

The only exception to this is if the dogs are working guide dogs, for example engaged as a seeing aid.

2. Dogs being brought in the school as dog mentors or for an educational activity

2a: We have two dogs trained as dog mentors – Arlo and Watson – they have both undertaken the dog mentor training program and received certification to safely work in schools. (See appendix 1 for risk assessment and certification)

2b: From time to time a dog might come into school as part an educational activity. This could be linked to a curriculum topic on animals or pets, fund raising for Guide Dogs or workshops by the Blind and Dogs Trust. In these cases, the following guidance should be adhered to:

- a) A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit and the dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament;
- b) The organisation has public liability insurance;
- c) Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out;
- d) The extent of interaction with the pupils and permission slips received;
- e) Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.

- f) All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of children;
- g) Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have;
- h) Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

3. Members of the public walking/exercising dogs on school grounds

School grounds are private property and should not be used for the purpose of exercising dogs during school hours. When spotting a dog walker on the premises, he/she should be approached and asked to leave the grounds explaining that it is private property. If this continues or staff feel they are unable to approach the dog owner the school should contact the local Council dog warden or the police.

Appendix 1

Activity or location being assessed: Crossflatts Primary School The Dog Mentor: Arlo – Training on 10/016/2025 - The Dog Mentor: Watson- Registration Number: DMD23698		
Crossflatts Primary School	Jenny Duckworth	17/4/2023



Dog Mentor Programme UK

The use of dogs in school is part of the recognised 'Dog Mentor Programme UK'. The use of dogs in the schools is part of a recognised programme and more information can be found at <https://www.thedogmentor.co.uk>

The dog/s in school has/have undergone the Dog Mentor training and will work towards further awards within this programme. By working towards and gaining the wards the dogs are maintaining the high quality expected of Dog Mentors.

Katy Sugden, Stacey Foster, Alice Shields, Lynne Gath and Jessica Pronger undertook their training on 17th March 2023.

Risk ID	Description	Impact	Owner	Impact	Probability	Risk Rating (Value)	Mitigation Plan	Adj Impact	Adj Probability	Adj. Risk Rating	Contingency Plan	Status
Risk No	Risk written in terms of the issue that could occur	Impact on the school, pupil, handler or dog		select Low, Medium or high	select unlikely, likely, highly likely or certain	Green < 0.25 < Amber < 0.60 < Red	What can be done to prevent the risk being realised	Impact on Risk following mitigation activities	Probability of issue occurring following mitigation activities	Green < 0.25 < Amber < 0.60 < Red	What could be done to minimise the impact if the risk is realised	Commentary of dates, actions and progress to minimise and retire this risk
1	Minor injury to pupil by dog (such as scratches)	Could require medical treatment (in school). Could also impact pupil confidence of working with the dog/s in the future.	Dog Handler	Low	Likely		- Dog supervised at all times. - Educating pupils and staff on behaviour around dog. - Limiting tricks performed for smaller pupils (high five, etc). - Dog's claws trimmed regularly. - Dog on lead at all times or in crate/office when not being supervised by an adult. The door will be locked, or signs put on the door so that children cannot enter when the dog is on its own.	Low	Unlikely		- Minor first aid - Parents contacted - Risk assessment reviewed - Debrief from staff in attendance - Accident form completed - Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place
2	Serious injury to pupil by dog (such as biting or mauling)	Would require medical treatment (in school or at hospital) after assessment. Could also impact pupil confidence of working with dog/s in the future and being around other dogs outside school.	Dog Handler	High	Unlikely		- Supervising adult to ensure dogs are kept on a lead whenever they are around children if dog has a 'right to roam' all stakeholders are informed of this. Right to Roam means off lead but with owner and not left unsupervised. - Supervising adult to ensure dog is exercised away from children this can be on the field and/or playground when not in use. If in use dogs are taken off site to be exercised.	High	Unlikely		- First aid after in school or in hospital after assessment by first aider - Parents contacted - Risk assessment reviewed - Debrief from staff in attendance - Accident form completed - Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place
3	Other injuries	Trips, slips or falls not directly related to dog.	Dog Handler	Low	Likely		- Monitoring Dog's health and temperament at all times. - Dog trained to not pull while on walking on lead. Smaller/younger children to have a second lead with adults hold's first/main lead.	Low	Unlikely		- First aid after in school or in hospital after assessment by first aider - Parents contacted - Risk assessment reviewed - Debrief from staff in attendance - Accident form completed - Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place

							not go (where all school rubbish is disposed of).					
7	General Hygiene	Germes could be spread between dogs and humans.	Dog Handler / Head of School	Low	Highly likely		- All staff and pupils to wash hands/use hand sanitiser after coming into contact with dog. - Keep dog away from all food preparation areas and away from pupils during times when they are eating. - The dog will be fed in the owners office. - The dog will be groomed every 6-8 weeks and have additional baths if required throughout the week. - Grooming will also involve nail clipping. - Bedding in the dog crate will be taken home and washed on a regular basis.	Low	Unlikely		No contingency plan	Handler to request that handwashing is put in place or introduction of some other method such as alcohol gel or wipes.
8	Impacts on Dog from other animals	If other animals such as dogs, cats or foxes are around in the school grounds, the dog could be attacked or chased which could adversely impact both the dog and/or pupils and staff. The dog/s could react adversely to other animals in school.	Dog Handler	Medium	Unlikely		- Dog to be kept under control at all times. - Handler to be aware of environment at all times.	Low	Unlikely		Dog training and control is required to reduce impact and likelihood of occurrence	Mitigation actions are all in place
9	Minor Injury to dog	Intentional injury to dog by pupil who is showing uncontrollable or unreasonable behaviour. This could also result in injury to pupil if dog reacts adversely. Environmental risks exist where dog could get injured (e.g. open stairways, heavy doors or gates or roads near to school).	Dog Handler	Medium	Likely		- Handler to be aware of situation at all times. - Pupil's temperament to be monitored. - Pupils showing unacceptable behaviour will not be allowed to work with dog. - On open stairways, dog to be walked on wall side. - Handler to always follow training methods on movement around school. - The dog should be kept on a lead while inside and outside. - Site has been assessed by The Dog Mentor programme.	Low	Unlikely		- Handler to intervene if risk is realised. Pupil or dog to be removed from environment. - First aid may be required - Separate first aid kit should be kept on site for dogs.	Mitigation actions are all in place

10	Major injury to dog	Intentional injury to dog by pupil who is showing uncontrollable or unreasonable behaviour. This could also result in injury to pupil if dog reacts adversely. Environmental risks exist where dog could get injured (e.g. open stairways, heavy doors or gates or roads near to school).	Dog Handler / Head of School	High	Unlikely		As per minor injury risk above	High	Unlikely		- Handler to intervene if risk is realised. Pupil or dog to be removed from environment. - First aid to be administered and then taken to vet.	Mitigation actions are all in place
11	General welfare of dog	If overworked, dog could become tired and may display unwanted behaviour or become ill.	Dog Handler	Medium	Likely		- Handler to be aware of dog's characteristics. - Provide dog with regular breaks and access to water. - Limit the number of pupils working with dog at one time to reduce chance of dog being overwhelmed. - Dog's to work according to their established/agreed timetable.	Medium	Unlikely		Extended rest period for dog	Mitigation actions are all in place
12	Noise, barking	Could cause alarm to children/staff/visitors.	Dog Handler	Medium	Likely		- If the dog barks at unknown adults- this will be managed by close instruction and positive reinforcement. - Key word to be used to help calm the dog 'settle' if they do become agitated e.g. handlers to address behaviour and seek advice from The Dog Mentor if it continues.	Low	Unlikely		No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place
13	Training the dog	Dog being over stimulated or not responding to instructions given during training.	Dog Handler	Medium	Unlikely		- The training of the dog will always be supervised by a trained adult. - Pupils will be told how to feed the dog treats- on an open hand- The dog will not be made things to do things it doesn't want to do. - If the dog shows any distress the training will stop immediately. - Pupil will be reminded to wash their hands after training.	Low	Unlikely		No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place