Wribbenhall School

School Dog (Daisy),

Cat (Skipper) Policy



**Written Spring Term 2020**

**Approved by Proprietor**

Ellis Wells

18th February 2020

Background

The proprietor of Wribbenhall School had considered and researched the option of retaining the family pets “Daisy” and “Skipper” as school pets since Spring 2015. Over a period of years, it became apparent that Daisy and Skipper’s temperament was ideal for supporting children with love and affection. Daisy is a cross bread Springer and Cocker Spaniel and Skipper is a domestic cat. They are both gentle and thrive on human company. They are owned by Mr and Mrs Wells.

Rationale

The rationale to have a school dog and cat is as follows:

1. For the school to have pets that are able to live as naturally as conditions will allow.

2. For the animals to be properly cared for during and outside of the school day.

3. To have pets that the children could interact with to be of benefit to the children’s social and emotional development.

Aims

The school aims to provide an emotionally supportive environment:

1. to provide a natural method of supporting emotional wellbeing for all members of the school:
   1. to provide physical comfort for emotional stress;
   2. provide “somebody” safe to talk to who will not pass on to another person;
   3. to provide a change of focus from academic and social pressures as required.
2. to provide a natural focus for caring and respect.
3. to provide a natural focus for animal physical wellbeing.

Implementation

Daisy and Skipper live with Mr and Mrs Wells on the school property at their own expense and are to be introduced to the children according to the risk assessments. A Vets’ practice local to the school thoroughly check both animals for any illnesses and are responsible for their vaccination programme. There are no illnesses that could be caught from either animal as they are kept up to date with immunisations and their worming treatment is in line with European vet guidelines. A register of their annual health check is kept both at school and the vets’ surgery. It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children (see below) but that for most it has the potential to provide many positive benefits.

Animal Allergies

It is recognised that many children and adults, to some degree, are allergic to animals. The school provides access to animals as an integral part of the school system. We are happy to incorporate reasonable adjustments to reduce contact with animals, however, we are not able to guarantee an animal free environment for potential members of the school, both staff and children. Due consideration to this should be made before joining us.

Any parent or potential staff member, volunteer, who does not wish themselves or their child to fully interact with Daisy is invited to write to inform Mr and Mrs Wells of their wishes. This should happen prior to attending the school or when it is realised that a person has a previously unrecognised allergy.