



ACADEMY DOG policy

Lord Grey Academy

Approved by: Principal **Date:** 30.09.2021
Last reviewed on: 30.09.2021
Next review due by: September 2022

Dog's name	Lulu
Canine Concern Membership	BU 021
Date of Assessment	23.12.2019
Owner	David Smith

Academy Dog Policy/Guidelines

Introduction

Students can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. The Academy believes that interaction with the academy dog will improve the student's abilities through the five key reasons below, which reflect the Academy core values and reinforce the message that Lord Grey Can.

Five Key Reasons

Dogs teach students responsibility and respect - Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give students a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a student and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.

Dogs teach students patience - Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!

Dogs teach students' compassion and empathy - Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.

Dogs teach students about socialisation - Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, students can learn how to better socialise with other students. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).

Dogs are fun - Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.

Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and students to realise the potential for greatness. Dogs can sense when students with epilepsy are about to have a seizure, they can sense when a diabetic student's sugar is low, and they can help students with severe physical disabilities find happiness in life.

Background

The Academy dog, Lulu, has lived with Mr Smith and his family since she was 8 weeks old. She is very much a family dog; she is a cross breed between a Cocker Spaniel and a Labrador, she has the right temperament to work with a wide range of students and adults within a school environment and she is a very caring and well behaved dog.

Lulu has now been assessed by Canine Concern and judged to be very suitable to work with students in a school environment. Canine Concern works with dog owners, schools and other organisations to safely and effectively enable people to interact with dogs for educational and rehabilitation purposes. They work to ensure that the dog and the person have a fulfilling, secure, stress free experience together. Being a Canine Concern dog also means she has her own public liability insurance.

Academy Policy

- Only the Academy dog is allowed on the premises. No other dogs must come on site unless they are a known therapy or assistance dog and the Principal has been informed beforehand.
- The breed of the Academy dog is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with students, which sheds little hair and is very sociable and friendly.
- Staff, parents and students will be informed by letter about the Academy dog, Lulu, and have the opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns.
- Parental consent will be sought prior to any students who the academy is planning to have regular close contact with Lulu.
- No student shall be forced to interact with the Academy dog if this makes them feel unhappy in anyway.
- At all times interaction with the Academy dog must be controlled and safe for adults, students and the Academy dog herself.
- A full risk assessment has been undertaken and this is reviewed annually.
- Staff, visitors and students known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near the dog.
- If the dog is unwell she will not be allowed into the Academy.
- The dog will be kept on a lead when walking around the buildings of the site or on a walk and will be under full control.
- Off lead retrieval exercise, with a ball, will be conducted on the grass areas of the site, under appropriate adult supervision.
- A student must never be left alone with the dog.
- A minimum of two students who have been approved by an authorised adult, Appendix A, will take the Academy dog for a walk on site.
- Walks off site in the local area will be conducted by one of the authorised adults, Appendix A, accompanied by one or two students.

Guidelines for interaction with the Academy Dog

If the following guidelines are not followed, interaction with the Academy dog will be cancelled.

There must be an authorised adult who takes the leading role when interacting with the Academy dog. If students, or visiting adults, do not abide by the guidance given by the authorised adult the interaction will be cancelled. Current list of authorised adults, see Appendix A.

The following guidelines must be followed when interacting with the Academy dog. These guidelines apply to all adults and students.

- If the door to a room where the dog is, is shut, knock and wait for the authorised adult to let you in. Never let yourself in as the Academy dog might not be ready
- Always approach the Academy dog calmly (voice and movement)
- Always approach the Academy dog slowly
- To start an interaction with the Academy dog, offer the back of your hand for her to sniff
- Keep noise levels low during interaction with the Academy dog
- Remain calm at all times
- When interacting with the Academy dog all students must remain on their feet and not kneel or lay down unless guided to by the authorised adult
- Never run up to the Academy dog
- No sudden movements or rough play with the Academy dog
- Students can feed the dog and give her treats, but only when given permission and told how to do so by the authorised adult
- There must not be any interaction with the Academy dog whilst she is eating
- Students and adults can only handle the Academy dog's equipment and resources, including food and treats equipment if the authorising adult gives permission
- After all interaction with the Academy dog, hands must be washed with soap and water/hand gel
- A student will never have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with the Academy dog
- There may be times where it is appropriate to allow a small group of students to walk the dog. We do want them to show responsibility. If they do so they will be fully briefed by the authorised adult and be able to repeat back what to do if a problem arises before they go outside. The authorised adult must be assured that the students are confident about the task and the rules
- If the Academy dog is with an authorised adult she does not need to be on her lead when in Academy
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately by the supervising adult using gloves and dog poo bags. Students must not pick up dog faeces
- Any concerns or incidents are to be brought to Mr Smith's attention

Dog Behavioural signs

Staff working with the dog shall ensure that students are aware of the behavioural signs from the dog are understood

- o Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or bearing of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened.
- o Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous.
- o If the dog is displaying any of these warning signs it should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.

Welfare of the Academy dog

- Water will be kept in at least two locations each day the dog is in Academy
- No interaction with the Academy dog when she is resting and eating
- Regular bathroom breaks to the grass areas by an authorised adult
- Authorised adults will remove the Academy dog from an interaction or the environment, when the dog shows signs of nervousness, tiredness or unwell. She will be moved to one of the designated quiet rooms, see Appendix B and Mr Smith will be notified
- Regular breaks for walks and rest will be conducted by an authorised adult
- Regularly check-ups at the vets for worm and flea treatments adjustments to her food intake to ensure she remains a healthy weight

Appendix A

Authorised adults at Lord Grey Academy are:

- David Smith
- Ali Butterfield
- Alex Harrison
- Mary McAllister
- Sally Cass
- Catherine Williams

Appendix B

Quiet Rooms

The offices of:

- David Smith
- Ali Butterfield
- Sally Cass