Government of JERSEY

Children, Young People, Education and Skills

Dogs being brought onto CYPES sites for Educational or Wellbeing purposes

Document Purpose	This policy is in place to outline the procedure surrounding dogs being brought onto CYPES sites
Author	CYPES Governance Team
Publication Date	July 2025
Target Audience	All CYPES staff
Circulation List	All CYPES staff
Description	This document ensures there is a standardised approach in place to managing risks associated with dogs being bought onto CYPES premises for educational or wellbeing purposes.
Linked Policies	CYPES Incident Reporting and Investigating Policy ID Prevention and Control of Infection, Guidelines for Early Years and School Settings.pdf Incident Reporting and Investigation Minimum Standard Risk Assessment Minimum Standard
Approval Route	Education DLT CSC DLT COD DLT CYPES Ministerial Team
Review Date	1 year from date of approval
Contact Details	cypesh&s@gov.je

1. Overview

Dogs can be of benefit to children and young people both educationally and emotionally, by increasing their understanding of responsibility and developing empathy and nurturing skills.

In addition to these benefits, children and young people take great enjoyment from interaction with dogs. Research has shown that interaction with dogs can achieve the following positive outcomes.

1) Improve academic achievement

2) Increase literacy skills (reading sessions)

3) Promote calming behaviours

4) Increase social skills and self-esteem

5) Increase confidence

6) Teach responsibility and respect

7) Help prevent truancy

8) Motivate children and young people who are often less attentive.

Ref: Therapy dogs and school wellbeing: A qualitative study - ScienceDirect

As beneficial as it can be, introducing a dog into any environment is not without its hazards, but these can be managed by the risk assessment process and ensuring there are adequate control measures in place.

An example risk assessment is included in this document (see Appendix 1).

2. Scope

Dogs should only be brought onto CYPES premises for the educational and wellbeing benefit of children and young people. The aim of this policy is to provide guidance in managing hazards associated with this practice.

The only exception to this is if an assistance dog is required, for example, provides additional support or assistance to a child, young person or adult. Any therapy dog brought in for use by an individual child for support/assistance can only be done so in agreement with the school to ensure there is no detrimental impact on others. A documented risk assessment must be completed.

This policy applies to the management of all dogs bought onto CYPES sites for educational and wellbeing purposes and includes guidance for everyone who may have contact with the dog.

3. Responsibilities and distribution

This policy is available on www.gov.je and must be made accessible to all CYPES staff, so that they understand their responsibilities when dogs are bought onto CYPES premises.

Line Managers and Headteachers:

- Are responsible for ensuring risk assessments are completed for any activities associated with dogs being brought onto CYPES premises, in conjunction with the dog's handler/owner.

- Must review the risk assessments, when changes to the activities occur, or as part of regular review schedule when required.

- Ensure this policy and risk assessment is available and is shared with all relevant people.

- Must ensure information about allergies or dog phobias for anyone who is likely to encounter the dog(s), has been collected prior to the dog(s) coming on site, and adequate control measures are in place to manage this.

- Should inform parents/guardians of children when there are dog(s) on a site, prior to any planned activities involving dog(s) that their children are participating in.

- Should inform visitors to the school when there are dog(s) on site in areas they may be visiting.

- Must establish adequate arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of any control measures introduced.

- Report and investigate any incidents associated with the dog(s) being on CYPES sites.

CYPES Staff:

- Have a duty to take reasonable care of themselves and of others affected by the activities contained within this policy. This includes making relevant people aware of any children or adults with dog phobias or allergies, prior to them being exposed to the dog(s).

- Must cooperate with any arrangements put in place.

- Report incidents and near misses that may occur.

Dog Handler/Owner:

- Assess the temperament and behaviours of their dog(s) to ensure it is suitable to be bought onto CYPES sites (Behaviour assessment checklist available Appendix 2)

- Must make sure the dog(s) they are bringing onto CYPES premises are fully vaccinated, and free of external parasites such as fleas, ticks and lice.

- Must ensure the dog is healthy at the time of the visit.

- Is responsible for the welfare of the dog at all times

- Must ensure the dog has adequate 'working dog' Insurance in place.

- Must be able to demonstrate they have control of their dog at all times.

4. Policy/Standards

CYPES, so far as is reasonably practicable, have a legal duty towards the health, safety, and welfare of children and persons who have contact with dog(s) onto CYPES premises.

Therefore, risks associated with having dogs on CYPES sites need to be assessed and sufficient control measures must be in place to remove or reduce them to a reasonable level.

5. Further information and related documents

Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law 1989 (jerseylaw.je)

Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004 (jerseylaw.je)

Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961 (jerseylaw.je)

Dogs not allowed into Jersey (gov.je)

Your_Dogs_Temperament_Assessment.pdf (petsastherapy.org).

NASUWT | Dogs on School Sites

6. Recommendations and Guidelines

Dogs must only be bought onto CYPES premises for educational and wellbeing purposes that benefit children and young people, unless they are a support dog.

6.1 Arrangements required prior to the dog(s) being on site

Prior to any visits being arranged, consideration must be given to the temperament and behaviour of the dog(s) to ensure that it is suitable to mix with children and does not display any behaviours that may cause harm or distress, such as jumping up, barking, growling or pulling on their lead. There is a temperament/behaviour assessment checklist available on appendix 2 of this policy that provides guidance.

A thorough risk assessment must be undertaken for any dog(s) bought onto CYPES premises during working hours for Educational or Wellbeing purposes, and this must be carried out with input from the dog owner/handler.

The risk assessment must be reviewed annually, if circumstances change or if an incident or near miss occurs.

Any dog breed being brought onto CYPES premises, must not be, or have characteristics of, the breeds contained within this link: Dogs not allowed into Jersey (gov.je).

All CYPES staff need to be informed and briefed when a dog is being brought onto CYPES sites and information about any dog phobias and allergies of children, staff and visitors must be collected prior to the event so that adequate mitigations are put in place.
Parents of children or young people should be informed when dogs may be present on CYPES premises.

6.2 During the visit

As previously stated, interaction with dogs can benefit children and young people both educationally and emotionally, and give great enjoyment to them, however, to ensure the safety of all, the welfare of the dog(s) the following guidance must be considered:

- Children, young people, staff and visitors must be made aware of what is appropriate behavior around the dog and not interact with the dog unless invited to by the dog handler/owner.

- The number of people interacting with the dog must be managed, the handler/owner in charge of the dog must ensure that they monitor the situation. The dog should be given a safe space to go to when required.

- If the dog is displaying any signs of aggression, fear, stress or nervousness, they should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment. Warning signs may include growling or baring of teeth, flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining.

- Children and young people must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate supervision at all times when the dog is present.

- Children, young people, staff and visitors must always wash their hands after touching the dog.

- The dog handler/owner must clear any dog foul immediately and ensure it is disposed of appropriately.

6.3 Welfare of the dog during the visit

To ensure the welfare of the dog during the visit, it must have access to fresh water and food, depending on the length of the visit.

The dog must have a designated safe space where it can rest and be undisturbed.

The dog must be taken outside for toileting purposes when required and the dog must be given adequate exercise if it is on the CYPES site for an extensive period of time. A designated space should be provided separate to social areas accessed by children and young people for toileting purposes.

Any dog on site must be included in the emergency evacuation procedures and arrangements must be in place so it can be removed safely. In the event of a dog being in a separate location to the handler or owner, plans to remove the dog from the building must be in place. This should be included as part of the risk assessment process.

6.4. Non-working dogs

Unless the dog(s) are coming onto premise for the purpose of education and wellbeing benefit for children and young people. No other dogs are permitted onto CYPES premises.

6.5. Stray dogs on CYPES premises

If there is a stray dog found on CYPES premises, the JSPCA must be contacted to remove the dog. The JSPCA can be contacted on 01534 724331.

6.6. Injuries from dog bites and scratches

Most animal bites are less likely to become infected than human bites, but they should still be taken seriously. There is currently no rabies in the Channel Islands, so vaccination against rabies is not required for bites that occur in Jersey.

If a child, young person, visitor or staff member is bitten or scratched by a dog, and the skin is not broken, the wound needs to be thoroughly washed with soap and water.

If a bite or scratch breaks the skin, wash with soap and water then seek medical advice about the possible need for treatment to prevent infection.

6.7. Reporting an incident

Any incident that involves a dog on CYPES premises, needs to be reported in accordance with the CYPES Incident Reporting and Investigating Policy **.**

6.8. Insurance

It must be disclosed to pet insurance providers if any Government of Jersey employee brings their dog onto CYPES sites for wellbeing and educational purposes, during their contractual hours of work, to ensure that adequate cover is in place, as the dog would be classed as a ‘working’ dog.

Furthermore, any other dog handlers, for example therapy dogs, brought onto CYPES premises must ensure their dog is fully insured to cover incidents of public liability, such as injury to persons or damage to property.

As a minimum, risk assessments must be in place for any dog(s) brought onto CYPES premises, and the temperament of the dog must have been assessed and that the dog is deemed appropriate for engagement with children and young people.

Appendix 1: Example risk assessment

TITLE OF RISK ASSESSMENT			
DEPARTMENT	CYPES	**LOCATION**	
DATE OF ASSESSMENT		**REVIEW DATE**	
NAME OF ASSESSOR		**RESPONSIBLE MANAGER**	

Likelihood (L)	
5	Certain – Hazard occurs frequently. It is a constant threat
4	Likely – Hazard will probably occur but it is not a persistent issue.
3	Possible – Hazard may occur occasionally, ie. One or twice a year
2	Unlikely – Hazard occurs infrequently but remains a possibility
1	Rare – Hazard is not expected to occur

Severity (S)	
5	Catastrophic - incident leading to irreversible health effects or death
4	Major - incident leading to long term incapacity/ disability
3	Moderate - incident leading to injury. Requiring 4-14 days off work
2	Minor - incident leading to minor injury. Requiring < 4 days off work
1	Negligible - incident leading to no/ minimal injury. Requiring 0 days off work

Likelihood	**Severity** 1	2	3	4	5
1	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
2	**2**	**4**	**6**	**8**	**10**
3	**3**	**6**	**9**	**12**	**15**
4	**4**	**8**	**12**	**16**	**20**
5	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**

Action
Stop
Urgent Action
Action
Monitor
No Action

Activity	Hazard	Persons At Risk	Current Control Measures	Current Risk Rating			Additional Control Measures required to lower the risk to as low as reasonably practicable. Please also put these in the action plan below and then complete the revised risk rating	Revised Risk Rating		
				L	S	R		L	S	R
Dogs in CYPES environments	Bites, scratches, injury or illness caused by the dog.	Employees, children, young people, visitors and dog handler or owner	• All dogs have had their temperament and behaviour assessed to ensure they are suitable to interact with children and young people. • All dogs that visit CYPES premises are fully vaccinated, and free of parasites. • Dogs are clean before the visit. • All staff, children and young people wash their hands after contact with dogs. • Handlers or owners clear up any bodily fluids/ waste and promptly if accidents occur and dispose of this safely. • Dogs are not taken anywhere near food or food preparation areas. • First aiders in situ	2	3	6				

Being in close contact with dogs.	Allergies	Employees children and young people	• Prior to interaction any allergy information is obtained. • Sufficient control measures implemented to manage the allergy. • Children with severe dog allergies will not be exposed to the dog at any time.	1	4	4				
Being in close contact with dogs.	Phobias	Employees children and young people	• Prior to interaction, any phobia information is obtained. • Sufficient control measures implemented to manage the phobia. • Children with severe dog phobias will not be exposed to the dog.	1	2	2				
Activities and games involving the dog.	Injury to children and others if the dog becomes overstimulated.	Employees children, young people, dogs and handlers	• Handler/owners remains with dog(s) at all times. • Number of people interacting with the dog is managed. • Employees remove children or young people who misbehave or upset the dog(s). • The welfare of the dog(s) is continually monitored to ensure that they do not get tired or distressed.	2	3	6				
Children misbehaving around the dog(s)	Injury to child or dog	Employees children, young people, dogs and handlers	• Children are instructed how to behave around the dog. • Children are not left unsupervised with the dog.	2	3	6				

			• Children are removed from the environment if they upset the dog through inappropriate behaviour. • Dog is removed from the environment if behaviour becomes unmanageable.							
Dogs on CYPES site	Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site by dog.	Employees children, young people, dogs and handlers	• Dog(s) remain on a lead at all times whilst moving around the building and when not engaged in a specific activity. • Handlers/owners bring suitable toys for the dog(s) if necessary. • If a dog takes hold of materials or equipment these are thoroughly washed and disinfected prior to further use. • All items that can be damaged /chewed are not left out for dog to access	2	3	6				
Dogs on CYPES premises	Dog not safely evacuated if fire alarm activates	Dogs and handler/owner	• Dog is included in emergency evacuation plans.	1	5	5				
Dogs on CYPES premises	Welfare of the dog		• Dog given frequent rest breaks • Dog has safe place to retreat to if required • Dog has access to fresh food and water • Dog is exercised • Dog is taken for frequent toilet breaks	1	3	3				

Appendix 2:

Temperament/Behaviour Assessment

Below are some behaviours that should be considered when assessing the suitability of dogs being brought onto CYPES premises for educational or Wellbeing purposes. The behaviours below are considered undesirable and could present risk to those who interact with the dog. If the dog displays any of them, consideration should be given as to whether your dog is suitable at this current time, to interact with children and young people on CYPES sites
This list is not exhaustive, there may be other unsuitable behaviours, specific to the dog that should be taken into consideration

Behaviours	Risks	Does the dog display this behaviour?	
		Yes	No
Jumping up at people	*This can cause injury by knocking people over or frightening them*		
Pawing at people	*Pawing can cause injury to those with thin skin and increase infection risks*		
Pulling on the lead	*This behaviour indicates that the dog is not under the handler/owners full control*		
Reluctance, backing away when being fussed	*This behaviour indicates that the dog is unwilling or unable to accept close or intense handling*		
Vocalisations such as barking or growling	*Vocalisations can be seen as assign of anxiety, discomfort or another undesirable behaviour*		
Mouthing	*This is an inhibited bite and can present risk of injury to individuals*		
Licking	*Licking is a hygiene risk and can also be a sign of stress or anxiety showing the dog is uncomfortable in a situation*		
Taking food greedily	*This can pose a risk to people if they are offering the dog food as part of an activity*		

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date Issued	Issued by	Reason for Change
0.1	July 2025	CYPES H&S	First Publication
0.2	October 2026	CYPES H&S	Review and Amendment
			Update

APPROVAL ROUTE

Presented To	Approval Date
CYPES Ministerial Team	
COD DLT	
Education SLT	
CSC DLT	