



DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Adopted: Summer 25

Review: Summer 28

Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is due to be reviewed at the time stated, unless circumstances determine that this policy needs to be reviewed at an earlier time.

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Mr J. Orchard

Headteacher

Mr K. Stroud

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Introduction

Note – throughout this policy, where the term ‘dogs’ is used, this applies equally to all other domesticated pets.

Governors and staff recognise that dogs are an important part of life for some of our families and, as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. In our teaching we promote the relationship between people and their pets and accept and encourage the idea of pets as ‘family members’. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

Our school grounds are part of the learning environment for our pupils and hence, the school has a duty to ensure that this is safe for our pupils throughout the school day so far as reasonably practicable.

The Local Authority, as owner of the school grounds and building, does not permit dogs or any other domesticated pet onto the school grounds, except for specific educational purposes or as a registered assistance dog with pupils, staff or members of the public.

Dogs are not permitted into the school grounds whether loose, on a lead, or being carried.

Dogs being brought onto school grounds by families when dropping off or picking up pupils

Some pupils or families may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children. Even well-behaved animals can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment, as this can lead to dog fights/snapping at each other which places children, staff and visitors at unnecessary risk of harm. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of and when in contact with dogs which can potentially lead to a child being bitten.

Please be aware that if approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds to be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the Headteacher to apply the agreed policy.

For the safety of the animal, as well as for the benefit of others, we would urge owners not to leave dogs tied up and unattended near the school gates. All animals should be kept away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with the animal.

Dogs being brought into the school as an educational activity for pupils

Schools may wish from time to time to bring a dog into the school as part of an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs.

Any agreement to bring a dog onto the school site will be with the prior consent of the headteacher. The following guidance should be adhered to:

- Relevant staff are consulted and in agreement to bring the dog to the school.
- All staff are informed so that any staff with either an allergy or cynophobia (fear of dogs) are able to bring this to the attention of the headteacher.
- A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit,
- The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament,
- The organisation has public liability insurance,
- Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out and the extent of interaction with the pupils,
- Alternative arrangements for pupils who may not wish to participate in the activity, or have an allergy or cynophobia (fear of dogs),
- 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 number of children,
- Consideration is taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have,
- Pupils have been informed of their appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in conjunction with the organisation bringing the dog and guidance taken from them,
- Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

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. In the first instance, if it is safe to do so, the dog owner 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 dog warden (0300 123 6696) or the police.

Stray dogs on school grounds

If there is a stray dog on the school grounds, the school will contact the local council dog warden on 0300 123 6696 to request that they come and remove the dog from the school

grounds or provide alternative advice. Children should be kept indoors until the dog has been safely removed.

Dealing with animal faeces

Animal faeces can represent a significant risk to human health and must be cleaned up promptly, carefully and handled correctly. Usually, this will be the school caretaker. However, should this happen during the school day, then either another member of school staff should do this, or the area will need to be taken out of use until it can be cleared up later on.

- Any faeces to be appropriately cleaned away using disposable gloves and a suitable bag (e.g. food waste bag). If the faeces cannot be picked up whole, any remnants need to be wiped up using a cloth or paper towel.
- The waste bag to be put inside a black bag and added to general waste in the relevant outdoor collection bin. No dog mess is to be taken / stored indoors at any time.
- The area around the animal faeces to be cleaned using a disinfectant spray.
- The person disposing of the animal faeces must clean their hands thoroughly.

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