

Policy – Dogs on School Site

Aims

To ensure the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors to the school and to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds and within the Boarding Community.

The Context of the Policy:

It is recognised that dogs are an important part of life for some staff that have residential accommodation. There is also considerable evidence to support the use of dogs within school for therapy sessions and companionship. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children. The school also acknowledges that some staff and students will have a fear of dogs or choose not to have dogs and there may be health and safety risks such as dogs fouling, dogs biting or showing aggressive unpredictable behaviour.

The School recognises that even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in an unfamiliar, busy, noisy and crowded school environment and that this can lead to unexpected behaviour in even the best-behaved pet. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs especially where they are not used to being with them.

It is in considering this context that this Policy and Code of Conduct has been drafted.

Code of Conduct

The School requires all staff, parents and any visitors intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to this Code of Conduct which states:

- Dogs must be on a lead whenever they are in the main school building and/or grounds
- Visiting dogs must not be left unsupervised on the school premises and must not be left in the sole care of anyone under the age of 18. No dog can be tied up and left unattended on or near the school site at any time - dogs should be kept away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with dogs
- If any parent, staff member or student objects to the animal's presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that this animal is kept away from them. If necessary, the animal may need exclusion from specific areas
- The adult bringing the dog on site or owner of a resident dog is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site any soiling by their dog on the school grounds and failure to do so will mean the dog will no longer be allowed in the school grounds (N.B. dog waste must not be put into the school bins)
- All dogs coming onto School grounds must be properly vaccinated and treated for fleas and other parasites, regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness
- Claws should be kept trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches

- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed in the school premises or restricted to accommodation until their health is restored
- When bringing dogs on to the site, dog owners do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression towards children or others and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment
- It is understood that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the Head

Boarding Specific Code of Conduct

- Dogs should always be kept securely especially when the owner is not in the accommodation
- The environment should always be suitable for the wellbeing and welfare of animals. This includes the size of the accommodation, temperatures and length of time unaccompanied
- At no time should the dog enter the sleeping accommodation of boarders or the boarding kitchens and particular care should always be taken to ensure those boarders allergic or not wishing to have contact with a dog are respected
- Dogs should always be well trained and well controlled
- Care should be taken when taking dogs for walks to avoid busy times of the school day when many pupils are present e.g. lunchtime as this may cause anxieties and/or allergies to some pupils
- Concern may be noise especially at night which must be limited
- Any students allergic to dogs must be clearly identified and measures put in place to avoid any incidents
- The owner is responsible for any damage caused by a dog and may be asked to pay for repairs. This includes damage from fouling
- In the event of a fire the buildings should not be accessed to recover a dog unless agreed by the fire brigade

Date: March 2020
Review: March 2023