

Dogs and Domestic Pets Policy

This Policy applies to the whole School and is published to staff, pupils and parents

Author: Finance Director (VB)

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Introduction

This policy applies to the whole School and is published to staff, pupils and parents, regardless of their position, role or responsibility. The aim of this policy is 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 before a dog or other domestic pet is permitted on site, consideration will be given to any known allergies of pupils, staff or visitors. Appropriate control measures will be implemented where necessary. Animals must not be brought into areas where a pupil or member of staff has a known significant animal allergy unless appropriate risk assessments have been completed.

Dogs are not generally permitted on site other than assistance dogs, authorised therapy dogs, staff-owned dogs approved by the Head, or dogs attending designated school events. Any therapy dog working within the School must be approved by the Head and be subject to an appropriate risk assessment and health documentation.

The School requires that all staff, pupils, parents and any visitors intending to bring their dogs or other animals into school must adhere to this policy which states:

- The owner or handler of the dog, including assistance dogs, is responsible for the dog at all times and must take responsibility in the event of any harm accidentally or otherwise that befalls a child or adult.
- The school may request evidence of vaccination, insurance or behavioural suitability where appropriate.
- All dogs must be kept under control, preferably on a lead at all times and under the full control and supervision of their owner.
- The owner bringing the dog onsite is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site any soiling by their dog on the school grounds, failure to do so will result in the dog no longer being allowed on the school grounds.
- When bringing dogs on to the site, dog owners must do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, adults or other animals, has never displayed any aggression and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.
- No dog can be left under the sole care of anyone under the age of 18.
- No dog can be left unsupervised (tied up or loose) on the school grounds at any time.
- All dogs must be kept off the playing fields to help prevent the spread of diseases.
- No dogs are allowed in any classroom, lesson or school building during term time, unless it is a registered therapy or assistance dog, and with express permission of the Head.
- If staff brings their dogs in the school buildings out of term time and weekends, they are expected to clean the classroom/area afterwards using a vacuum and/or mop as required.
- When appropriate, parents may be permitted to bring their well-mannered dog to some outdoor school events held on the grounds, such as sports day, if it is a designated animal permitted event.
- Any situation where the dog is deemed to be uncomfortable may be reported to any HSE member for consideration.

- It is understood that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the Head.
- Whilst this policy predominantly covers the management of dogs, it is also applicable for all other domestic pets.

The School reserves the right to carry out a risk assessment before permitting any dog or other animal onto the site, particularly where pupils will have direct contact with the animal.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Health and Safety Policy, Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Risk Assessment Procedures.