



See Tomorrow Grow

MODEL DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY

The trustees, governors and staff of Pippins School recognise that dogs are an important part of the lives of 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 good relationships with and treatment of animals. We acknowledge and accept the concept of pets as family members and encourage pupils to accept the responsibilities associated with pet ownership. We must bear in mind too, that many of our staff and governors may themselves be dog owners. We fully accept that there are legitimate concerns and risks associated with bringing dogs or other animals on to school premises.

Roles and responsibilities

- The headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy, which may be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team/an assistant headteacher/ a designated person.
- All staff are required to abide by the policy.
- The health and safety officer is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance as and when required.
- A risk assessment must be carried out for dogs on site which supports this policy and code of conduct.

Code of conduct

The trust/governing board requires all staff, parents and visitors whose dogs accompany them on site to adhere to this policy. They are reminded that bringing dogs to school is not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the headteacher and governing board.

When bringing dogs on site, dog owners do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed an aggressive behaviour towards children or others and is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

Authorised visits

- All visiting dogs must be on a lead or harness that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult who is in control of them.
- No dogs are allowed inside any school building unless they are assistance dogs or are from an officially recognised organisation such as Guide Dogs for the Blind, PAT (Pets as Therapy) dogs, Dogs Trust workshops etc, on an educational visit or as part of a timetabled lesson.
- If a dog is going to be in school for educational purposes, staff must know in advance and parents must be informed by letter and/or online.
- If any staff, parents or children object to an animal's presence then, as far as possible, arrangements must be made to ensure the animal is kept away from them.
- If there is a member of staff or regular visitor who is reliant on a guide dog or dog assistance in any way, that animal must be allowed to accompany the staff member at all times.

Family dogs

- Dogs should be kept away from entrance ways so that children have a choice of whether or not to come into direct contact with dogs.
- No dog may be left tied up and unattended on or near the school site at any time.



See Tomorrow Grow

- No dog should be left unattended in a vehicle on or near the school premises for any longer than 5 minutes and that vehicle should be properly ventilated at all times. In hot weather, this time must be considerably less.
- Dogs must not be allowed on children's outside play or sports areas.
- Members of the public may not walk or exercise their dogs on school land. If an offender persists after an initial warning, then the school should approach the local authority dog warden or the police.
- If there is a stray dog on the school grounds, the school should contact the local authority warden for advice. Pupils should be kept indoors until the animal has been safely recovered.

Guidance for using dogs in an educational context

The following guidance and code must be adhered to:

- A risk assessment is carried out before the visit.
- The organisation supplying the dog must show evidence that the dog has a suitable nature and temperament.
- The organisation must have public liability insurance.
- Parents and carers must be informed of the visit and the extent of interaction likely between pupils and the animal. Permission slips from parents should be obtained.
- Alternative arrangements must be made for any child who does not wish, or whose parents do not wish him/her, to participate in the lesson.
- All necessary arrangements must be put into place before the visit as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into account the breed of dog, age group of the pupils and numbers of children involved.
- Consideration must be taken of any allergic reaction to dogs that pupils and staff may have.
- All dogs coming into classrooms must be properly vaccinated and treated for parasites, regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or illness.
- The dog's claws should have been trimmed.
- If the dog is ill, it must not come into school.
- Only authorised people should feed the dog. Pupils should not feed or eat close to the dog.
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately
- Pupils should have been taught the appropriate behaviour around dogs before the visit.
- Good hygiene and handwashing procedures must be in place for pupils.



See Tomorrow Grow

APPENDIX 1 Animal Welfare Act 2006

If an animal or animals come on to school premises, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, those adults involved are subject to the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This includes any member of staff or visitor who is reliant on a guide or other assistance dog, although of course such animals are always wholly welcome in school.

This Act equally applies to schools that may have a school dog, or keep animals in school.

The Act places a legal obligation to ensure that the needs of an animal are met. The most important requirements of the Act are:

- The need for a suitable environment.
- The need for a suitable diet (food and fresh water).
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
- Any need that the animal has to be housed with or apart from other animals.
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

These responsibilities do not end at the finish of the school day, but continue as long as the animal remains in school, and includes evenings, weekends and holidays. Personal responsibility exists irrespective of whether the animal in question was bought by the school or owned by staff, pupils or parents.

If an animal's needs are not being adequately met while at school, criminal prosecutions could in theory be brought against all persons over the age of 16 who had responsibility for the animal.

Reviewe with no changes: : September 2024