



DOGS ON SITE POLICY

This policy refers to both Wellington Senior School and Wellington Prep School and applies both in term time and in the holiday periods

This policy does not apply to assistance dogs

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1.0 Introduction

Wellington School recognises that in some controlled circumstances the presence of dogs on site can be beneficial to the well-being of pupils and staff, increasing their understanding of responsibility and developing empathy and nurturing skills. The development of these skills is a key part of the school's personal, health and social education curriculum. They also provide benefits for children taking enjoyment from interaction with pets and other animals.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors regarding dogs on the campus for the following purposes:

- Accompanying parents/guardians whilst dropping off and picking up their children;
- Dogs living in residential accommodation;
- Staff, visitors and contractors;

However, dog owners must be aware that dogs are potentially dangerous and may also be a health hazard. They must also be mindful of the fact that some children and adults do not like dogs and may be afraid of, or allergic to them.

It is envisioned that on some occasions, dogs will be brought onto the premises. On these, as on any other occasions, as a School, the welfare of the students, staff and visitors is paramount.

Dogs may be brought into school by outside agencies for example Guide Dogs for the Blind, Police, Pets as Therapy and rescue charities from time to time.

2.0 Risk of Dogs on the Campus

Wellington School recognises that there are risks in allowing dogs onto the campus, including biting incidents, barking which may frighten children and hazards to health such as Toxocariasis. Parents and staff may understandably have concerns regarding dogs on the campus.

It is the school's aim to control risks by asking staff, parents, guardians, visitors and contractors to follow some simple rules, exercise common sense and encourage sensible behaviour of pupils around dogs.

3.0 Legislation

The School is required to comply with all legislation including, and not limited to, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work

Regulations 1999. This legislation establishes the standards that must be met to ensure the health and safety of all employees and others (students, parents, guardians, contractors and visitors) who may be affected by any school activity and are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive

4.0 Bringing Dogs on to the School Campus

The school has no jurisdiction regarding dogs walked through the school grounds using the public footpaths.

Anyone bringing a dog on to the campus must ensure that they are on a lead, supervised at all times and controlled so that it does not jump up at people.

Any pupil interaction with the dog/s must be properly supervised by the owner. Students must never be left alone in charge of the dog, unless permission is given by parents or guardians to do so and they are able to adequately control the dog.

Owners are responsible for their dogs at all times and must ensure that any fouling is cleared up immediately and effectively.

Dogs must be kept on leads and should not present a traffic hazard

Dogs must be clean and have up to date vaccinations.

Dog owners who bring their dog/s on campus must have valid third-party liability insurance and accept that they will be wholly liable for any accident for which the dog/s is/are responsible while on Wellington School campus. Wellington School staff are entitled to ask for evidence of such insurance policies at any time.

Thought should be given to the environment that the animal has been brought up in. Large numbers of children could cause a dog to become nervous, agitated. Dogs displaying any warning signs that they are becoming agitated must be immediately removed from the environment by the adult in charge of the dog.

Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought on to the campus. Dogs with young puppies (those under the age of eight weeks) should not be brought on to the school site as there is a risk of the mother becoming over protective, which may cause them to act out of character.

Contractors may not bring a dog onto the campus unless specifically permitted to do so by the Director of Operations.

If any staff member observes a rule being flouted, they are to remind dog owners of these rules at the first opportunity.

Wellington School reserves the right to request that a dog be removed from their premises immediately, should it be causing any kind of nuisance, without recourse to lengthy explanations. In these instances, owners must remove their dogs without delay.

5.0 Walking or Exercising Dogs on Campus

The School Sports Fields and play areas must not be used for the purposes of exercising dogs. Dogs are not permitted on the sports pitch playing areas, designated children's playing areas, or in the School buildings at any time.

There is clear signage around the sport areas to show no dogs are permitted on the Sport and Play areas.

There are a number of public footpaths around the school which can be used to walk dogs.

6.0 Dogs belonging to Staff

Dogs owned by staff should not normally be present when teaching or undertaking other supervisory duties.

As a school, we request that dogs are not brought onto site with the intention to be left during the school day in a car in order to best protect the welfare of the dog.

Dogs owned by staff residents will live in their residential areas under the terms of their occupancy agreement and follow the guidance within this policy.

Wellington School reserves the right to request that a dog be removed from their accommodation immediately, should it be causing any kind of nuisance, without recourse to lengthy explanations. In these instances, owners must remove their dogs without delay.

7.0 Educational On/Off-Site Visits

A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to any dog being brought into the classroom, for example, promotion of a charity.

Students will not have unsupervised access to any dog and will be told how to behave around dogs and handle safely. Where the School has been informed that a pupil has an allergy, they will be kept away from the dog as appropriate. Students will wash their hands thoroughly after handling the dog.

There are occasions when the presence of staff-owned dogs on educational off-site visits such as hiking trips, may enhance the experience for the pupils and staff alike. This is at the discretion of the visit leader and the member of staff responsible for approving that risk assessment. In these circumstances sensible provision must be made to transport the dog.