



Policy for bringing dogs on to Stonar site

1. Introduction

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

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

The school recognises that children can benefit with contact with pets and other animals, increasing their understanding of responsibility and developing empathy and nurturing skills. The development of these skills is a fundamental part of the school's personal, health and social education curriculum. In addition to these benefits children take great enjoyment from interaction with pets and other animals.

With dogs being one of the UK's most popular pets, children are likely to have considerable exposure to dogs, in particular, outside school. Developing children's awareness of how to behave safely around dogs is therefore important.

Dogs may also be brought in to school by outside agencies, e.g. Guide Dogs for the Blind or animal rescue charities such as the Dogs Trust.

The HWBC may have 'Pets as Therapy' dogs on site, following the approval of LT and the Domestic Bursar.

2. Risk of Dogs on the School Site

The school recognises that there are risks in allowing dogs on to site, including biting incidents and barking which may frighten children. Parents and staff may understandably have concerns regarding dogs on the school site.

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 the sensible behaviour of pupils around dogs.

3. 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 establish the standards that must be met to ensure the health and safety of all employees and others (pupils, parents, guardians, contractors and visitors) who may be affected by any school activity and are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive.

4. Bringing Dogs on to the School Site

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

Anyone bringing a dog on to the school site must ensure that they are on a lead, supervised at all times and controlled so that it does not jump up at children or adults.

Children 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.

It is imperative that dogs are not allowed to foul the school site. In the event of any dog foul, it should be removed immediately by the adult responsible and disposed of appropriately.

Consideration should be given to the temperament and characteristics of the breed of dog brought on to the school site, including the size of the dog and its age.

Thought should also be given to the environment that the animal has been brought up in. Dogs and puppies brought up in a family home will be more accustomed to the behaviour and sounds of children.

Large numbers of children could cause a dog to become nervous and 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 school site. 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 her to act out of character.

5. Walking or exercising dogs on the school site

The school sports fields and play areas must not be used for the purposes of exercising dogs. There is a track leading down to Atworth village that may be used for this purpose.

6. Contractors and visitors to the Equestrian Centre

All dogs brought on to site by visitors, contractors and Lets using the Equestrian Centre must be kept on a lead, this policy must be brought to their attention.

7. Staff bringing dogs on site and leaving them in cars

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

'The Animal Welfare Act 2006 introduced a duty of care for all pet owners to provide for their animals a suitable environment, a suitable diet, the ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease and consideration of the animal's needs to be housed with, or apart, from other animals. Unfortunately many people believe that it is alright to leave a dog in a car on a warm day if the windows are left open or they are parked in the shade, but in truth, it is still a very dangerous situation for the dog. A car can become very hot very quickly, even when it does not feel that warm. When it is 22 degrees outside temperature, in a car it can reach an unbearable 47 degrees within the hour.'

8. Dogs in the classroom

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

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