



Footpaths Policy

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Culford recognises that as a significant local landowner it has a role to play both in the local community and with regard to environmental issues. Culford also recognises, however, that it has duty to balance such a role with the duty of care and their safety it owes to its pupils.

In particular, Culford recognises that access to its site for members of the general public, must be balanced by its need to meet its child protection obligations towards pupils.

There are currently three footpaths through the Culford Estate.

1. The first runs from the northern entrance to the School in Culford village, along the drive, through the Estate, exiting near West Stow church.
2. The second enters the Estate from its northern boundary past the water tower, across playing fields and to the east of the Hastings and Skinner blocks, where it joins the first footpath.
3. The third footpath is permissive. It runs from the southern entrance in Culford to a point south of the churchyard, where it turns and follows the north bank of the river until it meets the first footpath.

It is the School policy that these footpaths will be maintained in good repair and continues to provide access to the beauty of Culford Park for members of the School community and the wider local population.

Persons using these footpaths also, however, have responsibilities towards the School. The School will deal robustly with nuisances caused by:

1. Persons deviating from the footpaths
2. Persons who fail to control animals within the park
3. Persons using motor vehicles, bicycles, horses, or other unacceptable forms of traffic
4. Persons creating litter, mess or nuisance within the park

The School will deal firmly with intrusion upon private areas of the School. It is a duty of care that our pupils live in a safe environment; and a reasonable expectation that residential staff live in an environment where their privacy is respected.

The School further notes for the purposes of this policy the following:

1. That there is no right to open access over school land
2. That the School opposes any extension to public rights of way across its land
3. That the School has no desire to apply for the closure of footpaths, but recognises that it remains an option if it cannot adequately safeguard its pupils within existing arrangements.



Maps are available from the Finance and Operations Director.

Horses

We do not permit horses on our footpaths.

Behaviour

The staff are asked to monitor use of footpaths and politely challenge members of the public if appropriate. Unacceptable behaviour includes: deviation from the footpaths; failure to control animals within the park; the use of motor vehicles, bicycles, horses, or other means of transport; the creation of litter, mess or nuisance. Concerns should be passed on to Finance and Operations Director. Repeated concerns will be followed up by a formal letter from the School, a formal letter from the School solicitors, and, in extremis, an application for an injunction.

