



## Footpaths Policy

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 a duty to balance such a role with the duty of care and their safety it owes to its pupils and boarders.

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.

- a. The first runs from the northern entrance to the School in Culford village, along the drive, through the Estate, exiting near West Stow church (but not through the driveway gates)
- b. The second enters the Estate from its northern boundary past the water tower, down the side of the playing fields, where it joins the first footpath.
- c. The third footpath is partly public and partly permissive. It runs from the Church Gate entrance in Culford to the church; the permissive path starts from a point south of the churchyard, where it turns and follows the north bank of the river until it meets the first footpath.

Note that there is NO PUBLIC ACCESS between the Church and the Sports Centre/Art Department

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 members of the public.

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

- a. Persons deviating from the footpaths
- b. Persons who fail to control animals within the park
- c. Persons using motor vehicles, bicycles, horses, or other unacceptable forms of traffic
- d. Persons creating litter, mess or nuisance within the park
- e. Persons parking on school premises to use the footpaths

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:

- a. That there is no right to open access over school land
- b. That the School opposes any extension to public rights of way across its land
- c. 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.
- d. That remedies include Aggravated Trespass and provisions in The Schools Act

Concerns should be passed on to the Bursar.

## Parking

V1.4

Reviewed: August 2024

We do not permit parking anywhere on the Culford School's property for members of the public wishing to use the public footpaths.

### Horses and Bicycles

We do not permit horses or public use of bicycles on our footpaths.

### Behaviour

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 (especially on the playing fields); the use of motor vehicles, bicycles, horses, or other means of transport; the creation of litter, mess or nuisance..



Public footpaths are shown as green dashes and are indicated en-route.

The permissive footpath is shown as green triangles, and its start, at the Churchyard is indicated by a fingerpost