

Penketh South CP School



Dogs on Site Policy

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Dogs on School Site Policy

Policy Title: Dogs on the Playground Policy

Review Date: Annually

Applicable To: All staff, parents, carers, visitors and contractors

Rationale

At our school, the safety, health and wellbeing of children are paramount. In line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, providers must ensure that premises and outdoor environments are safe, suitable and secure for children, and that appropriate steps are taken to minimise risks. The EYFS requires settings to maintain a safe environment and conduct regular risk assessments of areas used by children

Dogs, even those that are normally well behaved, can present risks including bites, scratches, allergies, fear and anxiety for children, as well as hygiene concerns arising from dog fouling.

Policy Statement

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, dogs are not permitted on school playgrounds, playing fields or any areas used by children during the school day.

This applies to:

- Parents and carers bringing children to and from school.
- Visitors and contractors.
- Community users of the school site.

Exceptions

The only exceptions are:

- Registered assistance dogs accompanying a person with a disability.
- Dogs involved in a planned educational activity approved by the Headteacher, where a suitable risk assessment has been completed.
- School-authorised therapy or wellbeing dogs operating under a specific school policy and risk assessment.

In these circumstances, dogs must:

- Remain under the control of a responsible adult at all times.
- Be appropriately trained and assessed.
- Follow any additional school safeguarding and health and safety requirements.

Procedures

1. Parents and visitors must not bring dogs beyond the school gates or into playground areas.
2. Clear signage will be displayed at school entrances stating that dogs are not permitted on the playground.
3. Staff may politely ask any individual with a dog to leave the site or remain outside the school grounds.
4. Any incidents involving dogs on site will be reported to the Headteacher and recorded in accordance with the school's health and safety procedures.

EYFS Compliance

This policy supports the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements by:

- Maintaining a safe and suitable environment for children.
- Reducing risks to children's health, safety and wellbeing.
- Supporting effective risk management of the premises and outdoor areas.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Governing Board will review this policy annually or sooner if there are changes to legislation, guidance or school circumstances.

