



## **BOWBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY.**

There are 3 key issues to be explored :

1. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents /carers dropping off or picking up pupils.
2. Dogs being brought into school as an interactive educational activity for pupils.
3. Members of the public using school grounds to walk their dogs or access other areas to walk dogs.

The local Education Authority has recommended strongly to schools that dogs are only allowed onto school premises for educational purposes or with pupils , staff or members of the public as a registered service (guide) dog. The Governors have considered this advice seriously and have agreed to accept this recommendation.

### **1. Advice regarding bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times.**

Dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the school grounds stressful, even frightening, particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment .

**Consequently, dogs are not permitted to access any part of our school site .** This covers all paths , access routes, car parks, yards , which are all part of school grounds. Please note, the path near the parent carpark is also part of the school site. The school's priority is safeguarding it's pupils and staff.

If anyone chooses not to comply with this rule, they are deemed responsible for controlling the animal, and unattended dogs remain the sole responsibility of the person who brought the dog onto the school premises.

The person bringing the dog onto school premises is responsible for cleaning up any excrement and will be held responsible for any negative interaction between the dog and people including bites, scratches and any other physical contact.

### **2. Dogs being brought in the school as an educational activity for pupils:**

From time to time a dog might be brought into school as an educational activity. This could be linked to a curriculum topic on animals or pets, the police or fund raising for Guide Dogs or Stray Aid, or workshops with the Dogs Trust. In these cases the following guidance should be adhered to :

- a) A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit and the dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dogs nature and temperament
- b) The organisation has public liability insurance
- c) Parents/cares have been informed of the proposed visit /how the visit will be carried out
- d) The extent of interaction with pupils and permission slips received.
- e) Alternative arrangements for pupils who may not wish to participate in the activity
- f) All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dogs, age group and number of children
- g) Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff might have
- h) Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

### **3. Members of the public walking /exercising dogs on or near school grounds:**

School grounds are private property and should not be used for the purpose of exercising dogs. As we cannot guarantee that dog walkers will not leave dog mess or dogs will not access where children may play, people are not permitted to walk their dogs on school premises. This includes paths and access routes which may be open during the school day . **NO DOGS** signs are displayed on gates and around the school.

When spotting a dog walker on the premises or grounds, he/she will be approached and asked to leave the grounds explaining that it is private property. If this continues and staff feel they are unable to approach the dog owner the school should approach the local Community Wardens or the police.

The only exception to the above is if they are an assistance (guide) dog.

J Glass Headteacher

On behalf of the Governing Body, Sept 2021 , Review Sept. 2023.