

# Highfields Primary School



## DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

November 2017

## HIGHFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

This policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Highfields Primary School community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many Highfields Primary families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience; it also acknowledges other people (adults and children – including some staff) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

This policy takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Highfields Primary community and also aims to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

To this end, the policy sets out a "Code of Conduct" for all families wishing to bring their dogs onto the school grounds. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of a dog means the dog is not to be brought into the school grounds during the school week. Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters will also be dealt with in the school dog policy.

Regulations concerning dogs on the school grounds are as follows. All parents and other carers intending to bring their dogs to school **must** adhere to this Code of Conduct which states:

- All dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult.
- Dogs' leads need to be held by **adults only**.
- **No** dogs are to be tied up **anywhere** on the school premises
- Dogs should not stand in the middle of the main playground and must be walked around the perimeter of the playground when collecting children and stood away from any of the gates whilst waiting.
- **No** dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed **inside** any school buildings under any circumstances.
- **Parents** are responsible for cleaning up any soiling by their dog on the school grounds and **failure to do so will mean the dog will no longer be allowed in the school grounds**.
- When bringing dogs on to the site, parents do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression towards children and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

The policy makes it explicit that dogs will not be allowed in classrooms (unless on a specific invited visit) or the rest of the school building.

**It is crucial that dog owners respect the fact that some people are genuinely petrified of dogs, however big or small. If we feel that having dogs on site is causing unnecessary stress to others we will review the policy again.**

The policy and Code of Conduct make clear that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right.

Highfields Primary is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets, in a bid to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.

For the avoidance of doubt, the school retains the right to direct that a dog is not to be brought into the school grounds, at the headteacher's discretion.