



## Dogs on the school site

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

Dogs are an important part of life for many Old Buckenham 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 families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

This policy takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the school 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 as determined by the schools leadership, in respect of a dog means the dog will no longer be permitted.

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 kept on a short lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult.
- Dogs' leads need to be held by adults only.
- While waiting on the playground, adults with dogs should stand in the designated zone. This has been agreed as on the playground (not grass) near to the climbing equipment. This will allow children to feel safe when entering the playground and the space to be able to play away from dogs.
- No dogs are allowed in the EYFS outside area.
- Dogs should not stand in the middle of the main playground and must be walked around the perimeter of the main playground.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed inside any school buildings.
- Parents are responsible for cleaning up any soiling by their dog on the school grounds.
- Dogs are not to be allowed to drink from the school water fountains/EYFS water feature.
- 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.

This 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.

The policy makes it clear that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right.

Old Buckenham 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.