



Pirton Hill Primary School

Dogs on School Site Policy

(December 2022)

Originated by: Glenn Booth
Ratified by Governors: December 2022

Overarching Values

Expect:

*We all **expect** to work hard, and meet our own high expectations, in a safe environment with access to high quality resources and opportunities that broaden our horizons.*

Believe:

*We all **believe** in ourselves, and each other, and know that everyone has something special to contribute.*

Achieve:

*We all have the opportunity to **achieve**, and fulfil our potential, regardless of our backgrounds.*

Enjoy:

*We all strive to develop passionate and determined life-long learners who **enjoy** learning, understand how to progress and take pleasure in succeeding.*

Policy Statement

Luton Borough Council strongly discourage dogs on school sites. It is recommended that schools strongly discourage parents from bringing dogs on site or from tying them up at the school entrance.

Our school understands that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community (*inc. parents, carers and staff*), and as such are often included in day-to-day activities. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and unfamiliar environment.

As a result, dogs are not allowed on the Pirton Hill Primary School grounds, with the exception of guide/assistance dogs. This also applies to school events (out of school hours), during the hours the school is open for staff access and during holidays.

Trained dogs may also be brought in to school very occasionally as part of the curriculum or collective worship, following completion of an appropriate risk assessment.

When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premises. This includes if the dog is tied up and left unattended at the school gates. If a parent walks their dog to and from school, the school will ask that they always keep the dog on a lead near the school premises in order to ensure staff and pupils feel comfortable when arriving and leaving.

The school grounds should not be used for walking dogs, even when the school is closed or on holiday. No dogs should be left tied up and unattended.

Any adults bringing a dog on to the school site will be reminded of the school's policy and asked to take the dog off site.

Associated risks

- **Bites.** The main risk from dogs is bites and possible secondary infection that may result from bites. Various phobias may also be associated with seeing dogs or the possibility of interacting with dogs, more notably relating to dogs fighting on school sites, which is often frightening to many young children and even some adults.
- **Allergic Reaction.** The proteins from the hair, saliva or urine of dogs may trigger an allergic reaction that attacks the eyes and airways and may result in asthmatic symptoms. Other allergenic reactions may include Atopic Dermatitis, a more common allergy linked to dogs.
- **Toxicariasis.** Dog faeces are associated with a number of transmissible diseases and infections. The most widely known health risk is Toxicariasis which is passed from the parasite *Toxocara*; a round worm commonly found in dogs and puppies. *Toxocara* eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals and can remain in soil for several years after faeces have disappeared. Eggs can also cling to the coat of infected animals. Children who swallow these eggs may become ill and, although very rare, serious illness can occur. Ingestion may occur through contact with contaminated soil or from patting and stroking infected dogs.
- **General unpleasantness.** When children playing in the school grounds fall onto, or tread in, faeces left by dogs, it is unpleasant for the child concerned and the member of staff who helps to clean up the child.

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996

Assistance Dogs: Additional Notes

When it is known that an assistance dog will be required on the premises, pupils will be informed to ensure they are not surprised by its presence. Pupils will be instructed on how they should act in the presence of the assistance dog, and the importance of following these instructions. Pupils that do not follow these instructions will be sanctioned in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Pupils with a known allergy to dogs will be kept away from areas where there is a high risk of allergens being present via the assistance dog.

For any visitors who use an assistance dog, a member of staff will be made available to help escort them around the premises. The dog will be kept on a lead at all times. The school will seek feedback from assistance dog users after visiting the site in order to understand how its provision could be improved.