



# Pirton Hill Primary School

## Dogs on School Site Policy

Originated by: Glenn Booth  
Ratified by Governors: March 2026  
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### 1. 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.

### 2. Policy Statement

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

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

### 3. Legal Framework

3.1 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

## **4. Role and Responsibilities**

4.1 The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school's policies and procedures are compliant with its responsibilities under equalities legislation;
- Reviewing and approving this policy as required.

4.2 The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Communicating to parents and visitors that the school operates a strict no-dog policy on its premises, excluding assistance dogs;
- Contacting the police or the LA Dog Warden, where necessary;
- Approving notifications from a parent regarding the need of an assistance dog on the school premises, e.g. when collecting their child (authorised person).

4.3 The Site Agent is responsible for:

- Liaising with the Headteacher where necessary;
- Ensuring that appropriate preparations and reasonable adjustments are made when an assistance dog is expected on the school premises;
- Ensuring that any animal faeces present on the premises are removed as quickly as possible;

4.4 All staff members are responsible for:

- Reminding parents and visitors of the school's policy where appropriate;
- Reporting any issues to the Headteacher.

4.5 Parents and visitors are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and not bringing their dog on to the school premises;
- Keeping their dog on a lead and at a reasonable distance from the school premises and pedestrian gates
- Notifying the school in advance when an assistance dog needs to be brought on to the school premises to allow the school to make suitable prep.

## **5. Pick-up and Drop-off Times**

5.1 When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premise at any times. 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 and at a reasonable distance from the school premises and pedestrian gates in order to ensure staff and pupils feel comfortable when arriving and leaving.

## **6. Members of the Public**

6.1 The school will publicly display signs making it clear that dogs are not allowed on site. The school grounds should not be used for walking dogs, even when the school is closed. No dogs should be left tied up and unattended.

Any unauthorised person entering the school site with a dog will be reminded of the school's policy and asked to leave. If the member of the public refuses to leave, the Headteacher will contact the police and or the LA Dog Warden. The school will seek and consider taking legal action under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 against members of the public causing a nuisance or disturbance by exercising animals in such a way as to disturb the normal running of the school.

## **7. Associated risks**

7.1 **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.

7.2 **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.

7.3 **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.

7.4 **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.

## **8. Assistance Dogs: Additional Notes**

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 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

8.4 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.

## **9. Monitoring Arrangements**

9.1 This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the School Business Manager every two years.

## **10. Links with other policies**

10.1 This Dogs On-Site policy is linked to the:

- Health and Safety policy;
- Equality Policy.