



## Procedure for Dogs on School Site

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and comfort of all pupils, staff, parents, and visitors on the school site. While many families have pets and we recognise the benefits of animal companionship, the school site must remain a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

### 2. General Rule

For health and safety reasons, **dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school site**, including playgrounds, fields, car parks, and entrances, **at any time**, whether on a lead or being carried.

### 3. Exceptions

There are two exceptions to this rule:

#### a. Assistance Dogs

Registered assistance dogs (e.g., guide dogs, hearing dogs) are welcome on the school site. The owner or handler must ensure the dog is appropriately harnessed, identified, and under control at all times.

#### b. Therapy Dogs

Therapy dogs are only permitted on site if they have:

- Undergone an **official and recognised assessment** confirming suitability for work in schools or therapeutic settings.
- A temperament that is calm, well-mannered, and able to cope with busy and sometimes unpredictable environments.
- Appropriate public liability insurance and up-to-date vaccinations.
- Been approved by the **Headteacher** before visiting the school.

### 4. Responsibilities

- The **Headteacher** is responsible for authorising any exceptions and ensuring all requirements are met.
- Owners or handlers are responsible for the behaviour and wellbeing of their dogs at all times while on site.
- Any dogs permitted on site will be managed through a risk assessment approved by the Headteacher.

### 5. Enforcement

If a dog (other than an authorised assistance or therapy dog) is brought onto the school site, the owner will be asked to remove it immediately. Persistent breaches may result in further action in line with the school's safeguarding or health and safety procedures.

### 6. Communication

This policy will be clearly communicated to parents, carers, and visitors through newsletters, the school website, and other relevant channels. There is also signage on school gates to remind all school site users.