



Dog Policy

Implementation Date: January 2016
Date / Term of last review: Michaelmas Term 2025

This policy applies to the whole school including those in the EYFS.

This policy is reviewed every two years unless regulatory changes are implemented or procedural updates are required.

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Approval:	Clare Bradbury, Headteacher
Next Review Date:	Michaelmas Term 2027

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Website	Required	✓
Internal Staff only		

1. Aims and objectives

- 1.1. To ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff, parents and visitors to Oakwood School.

2. Approach

- 2.1. Dogs are an important part of life for many families at the school and are often included in day-to-day activities, some accompanying school staff to work and some accompanying parents on the playing fields when matches are taking place and visits from guide dogs etc.
- 2.2. Whilst the school appreciates the positive attributes and values of pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) for whom contact with dogs can be stressful, or even frightening.
- 2.3. The dog policy therefore takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of our community.

3. Regulations for families visiting with their dogs

- Dogs must be under control at all times and under adult responsibility
- Dogs must be on a lead at all times
- Dogs must not be left unattended at any time
- Dogs must keep to the perimeter of the playing field during matches
- Owners must pick up, and appropriately dispose of their dog's excrement
- Dogs must not enter any of the school buildings, especially the dining room, the kitchen, or anywhere where food is present (e.g. Heritage Room during match tea). The only exception is for dogs that are an aid to visual impairment and disability.
- If it is felt by the Headteacher that any animal causing harm to individuals, or the school site, or she deems that the dog is creating a nuisance of itself, the owner of the dog will be asked to remove the dog from the school site with immediate effect.

4. Guidelines for pupils, parents, staff and visitors

- 4.1. Pupils, parents, staff and visitors to Oakwood are required to adhere to the following:
 - all interactions with a dog on site must remain calm with the authorised adult in control at all times;
 - always approach any dog on the school site calmly and slowly;
 - never run up to a dog or chase it;
 - remain calm and offer the back of your hand for the dog to sniff when meeting the dog;
 - children should approach the dog standing up and should not put their face near a dog;
 - children must wash their hands before eating if they have been stroking the dog; and
 - children should not approach the dog while it is sleeping or eating.

5. Dogs in an educational setting

- 5.1. Increasingly in schools, it is recognised that children's emotional wellbeing is at the root of positive behaviour and success in both the classroom and in social situations. A dog can support children who are anxious about school, provide comfort and reassurance and indeed can be motivational and encourage

reluctant pupils into school. Children with challenging behaviours, and often identified as needing significant support and strategies to promote their own positive wellbeing, can benefit from having adult led interactions with a dog.

6. Guidelines for Oakwood staff bringing dogs into school

6.1. All Oakwood staff who wish to bring a dog into school must obtain prior permission from the Headteacher, complete a risk assessment and follow these guidelines:

- there must always be a responsible adult in charge of the dog, especially during interactions with children;
- school dogs must be **under control and on a lead at all times** in the classroom or corridors;
- school dogs must be **on a lead** walking around the school buildings and outdoor pathways;
- school dogs may be left unattended in a school classroom or office for limited periods of time but it **must** be a secure environment and **not** accessible by unsupervised pupils. Dogs should not be brought to staff meetings. If left unattended in a classroom, the dog should be crated or the door locked with a sign on the door, indicating that a dog may be present. The dog should be left on a lead in an unoccupied space so as not to escape when the door is opened;
- children should not have access to a room with an unsupervised dog;
- children should always wash their hands after handling a dog;
- school dogs may enter the school buildings on a lead, but are not permitted to enter the dining room or the kitchen (*other than for dogs that are an aid to visual impairment and disability*);
- owners must pick up and appropriately dispose of their dog's excrement;
- if it is felt by the Headteacher that a dog on site has the potential to cause harm to individuals, or the school site, or she deems that the dog is creating a nuisance of itself or distracting pupils whilst learning, the owner of the dog will be asked to remove the dog from the school site with immediate effect;
- owners must be aware that some children and adults can be very nervous of dogs. In these instances where children may be in close contact with the dog, careful consideration should be given as to whether it is appropriate to bring the dog into school;
- owners are strongly advised to have their own personal pet and public liability insurance;
- owners are responsible for ensuring the supervision of their dog whilst following the school's fire evacuation procedures;
- where the School is informed that a child has a particular allergy to dogs, the teacher should make alternative arrangements for their dog during the day and the dog must not be brought into the classroom;
- parents/carers can make a reasonable request that their children do not have access to a teacher's dog within the classroom which must be respected. Should parents not wish their child to be in the presence of a teacher's dog within the classroom environment, parents are requested to please contact the school Head of Operations, in the first instance.

7. Given the rural nature of the School, we may experience local dogs coming on site without supervision. Staff are asked to advise the Office, who will deal with the issue by telephoning the dog's owner if known, or the Dog Warden if the owner is not contactable or unknown. (01243 534604).