



Approach to Dogs on Academy Site

## **Aim**

Our aim is to deal with issues relating to dogs on our Academy grounds.

There are three key issues to be explored:

1. Dogs being brought onto Academy grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils
2. Dogs being brought into the Academy as an interactive educational activity for pupils
3. Stray dogs on Academy grounds.

The Education Authority has recommended strongly to Schools that dogs are only allowed on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff, or members of the public as a registered service dog.

### **Advice to those bringing dogs to Academy at drop off and pick up times.**

It is recognised that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the Academy community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from Academy. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the Academy grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment.

- Only dogs that are able to be carried securely by the owner are permitted onto the Academy site, and when instructed to do so, the owner must be prepared to pick up their dog and carry the dog until they have left the Academy site.
- Dogs that are banned, or have a Certificate of Exemption should not be brought onto the Academy site under any circumstances.
- Please be aware that if approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds to be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the governors to apply the agreed policy.
- For the safety of the dog, as well as for the benefit of others, do not tie your pet to the Academy building or fences and leave it unattended.
- All visiting dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult who is in control of them.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from Academy are allowed inside any Academy buildings, only assistance dogs and the Academy dog are allowed inside Academy buildings.
- Unsupervised assistance dogs must be secured in an appropriate crate when on the Academy site.
- Visiting dogs must not be left unsupervised on the Academy premises and must not be left in the sole care of anyone under the age of 18. Dogs should be kept away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with the dog.
- If any parent or pupil object to the animal's presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that this animal is kept away from them. If necessary, the animal may need exclusion from specific areas.
- The adult bringing the dog on site is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site any soiling by their dog on the Academy grounds and failure to do so will mean

the dog will no longer be allowed in the Academy grounds (dog waste must not be put into the Academy bins).

- All dogs coming onto Academy grounds must be properly vaccinated and treated for fleas and other parasites, regularly groomed, and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed on Academy grounds until their health is restored.

A risk assessment has been completed for dogs on site which supports this policy and code of conduct. The Academy insurance company have been made aware of the Academy's policy and procedures for dogs on Academy sites.

When bringing dogs on to the site, dog owners do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression towards children or others and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in an Academy environment.

It is understood that bringing dogs to Academy is a privilege not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the Principal.

### **Dogs being brought in the Academy as an educational activity for pupils.**

We may wish from time to time to bring a dog into the Academy as part of an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs.

The following guidance should be adhered to:

1. A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit.
2. The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dogs' nature and temperament.
3. The organisation has public liability insurance.
4. Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out.
5. The extent of interaction with the pupils and permission slips received.
6. Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.
7. All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of children.
8. Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have.
9. Pupils have been informed of the appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in the conjunction with the organisation bringing in the dog and guidance taken from them.
10. Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

### **Stray dogs on Academy grounds**

If there is a stray dog in the Academy grounds, we will contact the local Council Dog Warden for advice and they will come and remove the dog from the Academy grounds. Children should be kept indoors until the dog has been safely removed.