



# **No Dogs on School Premises Policy**

Last Reviewed: October 2023

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## **Statement of intent**

For the safety of the school community, Richardson Dees Primary School has taken the decision to not allow dogs on the school premises at any time, unless used to assist a person with a visual impairment or disability. The school will take all reasonably practicable steps to facilitate the use of an assistance dog on the premises in line with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

For the purposes of this policy, an assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country.

## **1. Legal framework**

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

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Visitor Policy
- School Security Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board is responsible for:

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

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Communicating to parents 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.
- Managing complaints in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

The site manager 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.
- Listening to and, where appropriate, implementing feedback received from owners of assistance dogs to improve the school's provision.

All staff members are responsible for:

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

Parents and visitors are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and not bringing their dog on to the school premises.
- 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 preparations.
- Raising any queries or complaints with the headteacher.

### **3. Pick-up and drop-off times**

When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premises at any time. 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.

If a member of staff sees or is made aware of a parent who has brought a dog on to the school premises, the parent will be asked politely to leave.

If a parent requires the use of an assistance dog on the school premises at any time, they will contact the headteacher to notify them of their need to allow the school time to prepare and make any reasonable adjustments where necessary.

### **4. Members of the public**

The school will publicly display signs making it clear that dogs are not allowed on the premises. Any dog walkers will be asked to leave. If there are any issues, e.g. the member of the public refuses to leave, the headteacher will contact the police and/or the LA Dog Warden. The school will 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.

If a dog appears on the school premises without an owner, the headteacher will contact the LA Dog Warden. The site manager will ensure if any animal faeces are present, they are removed.

### **5. Assistance dogs**

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 disciplined 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. Allergies will be managed in line with the school's Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy.

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.

## **6. Complaints**

Any complaints from parents about the school's No Dogs on School Premises Policy will be handled in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy. The headteacher will aim to resolve any issues amicably and will be open to feedback from parents.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

The headteacher and the governing board will review this policy biannually. The policy will be reviewed following any incidents or disturbances involving dogs on the school premises and following any substantial feedback from parents and the wider community. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all stakeholders.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is October 2025