

Dogs on School Premises Policy

Beavers Community Primary School



Respect - Determination - Cooperation - Equality - Honesty - Kindness

Approved by: Governors Date: March 2025

Last reviewed on: March 2025

Next review due by: March 2028

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1. Introduction

For the safety of the school community, Beavers Community Primary School has taken the decision to not allow dogs on the school premises, 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.

2. Scope

This policy and guidance applies to all employees, parents, carers, guardians and visitors to Beavers Community Primary School.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

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 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 pest control and welfare, 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.

All **staff** 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.

4. 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 or tie up or leave a dog unattended near 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 reminded of the school policy and asked politely to leave – the Headteacher will then be informed as soon as possible.

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.

Schools are private property and Section 547 of the 1996 Education Act gives powers to Headteachers and school Governors to ask trespassers or those visitors who do not conduct themselves properly to leave the site. If parents, carers, guardians or visitors repeatedly bring dogs on to the school site at drop off and pick up times despite being asked not to, the school will write to the relevant person and if needed, the Governors will consider a ban from the premises.

5. Members of the Public

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. 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.

6. Stray Dogs

If a dog appears on the school premises without an owner, the LA procedure will be followed: (https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20006/environment/1168/pest_control_and_welfare/6)

If you come across a loose dog in the borough, please do not chase or call the animal near to any roads. Use the 'Stop, drop, think' method and allow the dog to come to you if it chooses. If you are unsure don't attempt to grab it, and report the sighting to Animal Welfare Officers instead. The biggest risk to a stray dog is being pushed into traffic in a flight response.

If you find a loose unattended dog and can secure it safely, please call 0208 583 2000 Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm, or on the out of hours lines on 0208 583 2222.

Alternatively:

- If it is safe to handle or travel with the stray dog, you can take them directly to any out of hours vet for microchip scanning, or
- Use the details on the dog's collar tag to make enquiries and establish ownership if you feel comfortable.
- If ownership cannot be proved, please call the Animal Welfare Team for assistance.

7. 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.

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.

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. Dog Mentor School Dog (Chrissie)

The school works with The Dog Mentor to safely allow the school dog Chrissie on to the school site during the school day

School have a risk assessment in place for Chrissie, including instructions for pupils as to how they should act around Chrissie and how to safely allow her into their classroom.

9. Complaints

Any complaints about the Dogs on School Premises Policy will be handled in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

10. Review of Policy

A review of the policy will be undertaken every three years by the Headteacher and Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed following any incidents or disturbances involving dogs on the school premises, and following any advice from the Local Authority, police or other relevant bodies.

Signed by:

Chair of Governors: _____ Date: _____

Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: _____