



## Dogs on School Site Policy September 2022

This policy is intended to ensure that our children, staff, contractors and visitors are kept safe and secure whilst on site.

Governors and staff recognise that dogs are an important part of life for some of our families and, as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. In our teaching we promote the relationship between people and their pets and accept and encourage the idea of pets as 'family members'. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

However, we also recognise that there are some risks associated with dogs:

**Bites.** The main risk from dogs is bites and possible secondary infection that may result from bites. Various phobias may also be associated with seeing dogs or the possibility of interacting with dogs. There is also a possibility of the dogs fighting on school sites, which is often frightening to many young children and even some adults.

**Allergic Reaction.** The proteins from the hair, saliva or urine of dogs may trigger an allergic reaction that attacks the eyes and airways and may result in asthmatic symptoms. Other allergenic reactions may include Atopic Dermatitis, a more common allergy linked to dogs.

**Toxicariasis.** Dog faeces are associated with a number of transmissible diseases and infections. The most widely known health risk is Toxicariasis which is passed from the parasite *Toxocara*; a round worm commonly found in dogs and puppies. *Toxocara* eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals and can remain in soil for several years after faeces have disappeared. Eggs can also cling to the coat of infected animals. Children who swallow these eggs may become ill and, although very rare, serious illness can occur. Ingestion may occur through contact with contaminated soil or from patting and stroking infected dogs.

**General unpleasantness.** When children playing in the school grounds fall onto or stand in faeces left by dogs, it is unpleasant for the child concerned and the member of staff who helps to clean up the child.

It has been decided that, in this school, dogs are not allowed on the school grounds, with the exception of guide/assistance dogs. Trained dogs may also be brought into school as part of the curriculum, therapy or assemblies, following completion of an appropriate risk assessment.

For St John Bosco, this means no dogs anywhere on site, including when they are being carried, if they have not been risk assessed as part of the above activities. A risk assessment will ensure that any of the risks we have identified will be addressed and measures put in place to ensure that interaction with the dog is safe. We would always check with parents before using a therapy dog in school with a child.

No dogs should be left tied up and unattended. Any adults bringing a dog on to the school site will be reminded of the school's policy and asked to take the dog off site.

We will promote this policy through reminders in the school newsletters, posters on site and in assemblies.

We will check the effectiveness of this policy by:

- Daily monitoring from members of staff on morning gate duty and at hometime.
- Feedback from parents, governors and staff
- Reports from the Site Caretaker
- Health & Safety Inspections

## **BRITISH VALUES**

At St John Bosco School, we value the diversity of backgrounds of all pupils, families and the wider school community.

We uphold the following definition of British Values:

- Respect for democracy and support or participation in the democratic process
- Respect for the basis on which the law is made and applies in England
- Support for equality of opportunity for all
- Support and respect for the liberties of all within the law
- Respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs

Our school reflects British values in all that we do. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British society and to the world. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

## **EQUALITY**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil or member of our school community and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier should the need arise.

Agreed by the Governing Body on: September 2022

Review date: September 2025