

## **MANOR ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**



# **DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY**

**March 2020**



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### DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

This policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Manor Road Primary School community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many Manor Road Primary families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience; it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

This policy takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Manor Road Primary community and also aims to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

To this end, the policy sets out a "Code of Conduct" for all families wishing to bring their dogs onto the school grounds. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of a dog means the dog is not to be brought into the school grounds between 8.00am and 4.00pm during the school week. Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters will also be dealt with in the school dog policy.

Regulations concerning dogs on the school grounds are as follows. All parents and other carers intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to this Code of Conduct which states:

- All dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult.
- Dogs' leads need to be held by adults only.
- Dogs may be tied up away from door entry on a short lead for brief periods of time (giving enough time to take a child into class)
- No dogs are allowed in the small playground **or near to any entrance into the school building.**
- No dogs are allowed **on any of the grassed areas within the school grounds or on the main body of the playground** as children have to feel free to be able to play away from dogs.
- Dogs must be walked around the perimeter of the main playground when **parents/carers are** collecting children.
- Dogs must be tied away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with dogs.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed inside any school buildings.
- Parents are responsible for cleaning up any soiling by their dog on the school grounds and failure to do so will mean the dog will no longer be allowed in the school grounds.
- Dogs are not to be allowed to drink from the school water fountains.

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

The policy makes it explicit that dogs will not be allowed in classrooms (unless on a specific invited visit) or the rest of the school building.

The policy and Code of Conduct make clear that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right.

Manor Road Primary is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets, in a bid to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.

For the avoidance of doubt, the school retains the right to direct that a dog is not to be brought into the school grounds between 8.00am and 4.00pm during the school week, at the headteacher's discretion.

Policy Written: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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Review: As appropriate