

# Dog on Site Policy

## Non-Statutory

Approved by: LGB: St Peter's,

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 25

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

This policy should benefit the users of our school site through:

- A consistent approach from the school and understood by all;
- A safe environment;
- A reduction in the risk to children, staff and visitors.

### Agreed Procedure:

Oxfordshire Diocesan Schools Trust and the Children's Services Department strongly discourage dogs on school sites. It is recommended that schools instruct parents not to bring dogs on site or to tie them up at the school entrance. This is because there can be no control measures brought about by school on other people's dogs or behaviours to reduce risk. We are responsible for what happens on our school site (including at the school gate)

Following this guidance, it has been decided that dogs are not allowed onto or at the entrance of the school grounds, with the exception of guide/assistance or specifically invited dogs. Dogs may be brought in to school as part of the curriculum or collective worship, following completion of an appropriate Risk Assessment. An individual risk assessment must be completed for each and every dog with permission to be on school grounds. Public liability insurance must be in place prior to any dog owned by an individual or company is allowed on premises.

### Associated Risks:

#### 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, more notably relating to 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 faeces left by dogs, it is unpleasant for the child concerned and the member of staff who helps to clean up the child.

We can check that this is working by:

- Daily monitoring from member of staff on morning duty
- Feedback from parent governors and staff
- Reports from the cleaners
- Health & Safety inspections