

S. Anselm's School



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Dogs in School Policy

Introduction

It has been customary at S. Anselm's for staff and parents to bring dogs onto the school site. The School recognises that dogs can form part of the wider school community. However, their presence must be carefully managed to ensure the safety, wellbeing and comfort of pupils, staff and visitors.

This policy sets out the expectations and responsibilities relating to dogs on the School site. It aims to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place so that pupils can use and enjoy the School grounds, sports pitches and playgrounds without risk or concern.

The School reserves the right to ask that any dog be removed from the site if it is considered to pose a risk, cause disruption or if the conditions of this policy are not followed.

General Rules

The following expectations apply to all dogs on the School site:

- Dogs must be always kept on a lead when pupils are present.
- Dogs must always remain under the control of their owner or handler.
- Dogs must not be allowed to behave in a manner that could cause distress, alarm or risk to others.
- Any fouling must be cleared immediately by the owner and disposed of appropriately.
- Dogs are not permitted on playing fields, sports pitches or playground areas unless on a lead.

Staff Dogs

Staff members wishing to bring a dog into school on a regular basis must first obtain permission from the Head.

The staff member always remains fully responsible for the dog whilst it is on School premises.

The staff member must ensure that:

- The dog presents no risk to pupils, staff or visitors, either through behaviour or hygiene.
 - The dog is healthy, vaccinated where appropriate, and regularly wormed and treated for fleas.
 - The dog is clean and well cared for.
 - The dog does not foul the buildings or grounds. If this occurs, the owner must clear the mess immediately and ensure the area is properly cleaned.
 - The dog does not disrupt school activities, lessons or the general running of the School.
 - The dog always remains under supervision and control.
 - The dog is not left unattended on the School site.
 - The staff member holds appropriate insurance to cover any damage or harm caused by their dog.
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If a dog is found to be disruptive or presents any concern regarding behaviour or safety, the School may require adjustments to how the dog is managed on site. In some cases, permission for the dog to attend school may be withdrawn.

Parents' and Visitors' Dogs

Parents' and visitors' dogs are welcome to attend the School for matches and other special events.

However:

- Dogs must always remain on a lead whilst on School grounds.
- Owners must maintain full control of their dog.
- Owners are responsible for clearing up any mess immediately.
- Owners must ensure their dog does not approach pupils without permission or supervision.

Parents and visitors will be reminded periodically of these expectations, and signage will be displayed in appropriate areas around the School grounds.

Allergies, Phobias and Sensitivities

The School recognises that some members of the community may have allergies, phobias or cultural sensitivities relating to dogs.

Where appropriate, reasonable steps will be taken to minimise discomfort or risk. This may include restricting dogs from certain areas or ensuring they remain under close control when pupils are present.

No pupil or member of staff will be required to interact with a dog.

Parents are encouraged to inform the School if their child has a known allergy or significant fear of dogs so that appropriate arrangements can be considered.

Assistance, Service and Therapy Dogs

The School recognises that some individuals may rely on assistance or service dogs to support a disability or medical need.

Registered assistance dogs accompanying pupils, staff or visitors are permitted on the School site and are not subject to the same restrictions as other dogs, provided they remain under the control of their handler.

The School may also permit therapy or wellbeing dogs where they form part of a structured programme intended to support pupils' wellbeing or learning. In such cases:

- The dog must be appropriately trained and suitable for a school environment.
- The dog must remain under the control of a responsible adult.
- Interactions with pupils must be supervised.
- Participation by pupils will be voluntary.

All therapy or wellbeing dog arrangements must be approved in advance by the Head.

Areas Where Dogs Are Not Permitted

Dogs are not permitted in the following areas of the School:

- Dining Hall
- Kitchen or food stores
- Staff Room
- Staff Workroom
- Library
- DT Workshop
- Science Laboratories
- Sports Hall
- Dormitories

Staff dogs must not be allowed outside unsupervised and must be kept on a lead so that any fouling can be identified and cleared immediately.

Hygiene and Safety

Dog owners must ensure that the presence of dogs does not create hygiene or health risks.

This includes ensuring that dogs are kept away from food preparation areas, restricted spaces are respected, and any fouling is cleared immediately.

Owners should also remain mindful of individuals who may have allergies, phobias or sensitivities.

In the Event of an Incident

In the event of any accident or incident involving a dog that results in injury, harm or distress to a pupil, staff member or visitor:

- The dog should be removed from the immediate area.
- First aid should be provided where necessary.
- The incident must be reported immediately to the Head.
- The incident will be recorded and reviewed, and further action may be taken if required.

The School reserves the right to withdraw permission for a dog to be on site following any incident.

Monitoring and Review

The School will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and review it periodically to ensure it continues to support a safe and positive environment for all members of the school community.