



Dogs on School Grounds Policy

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Reviewed by:	Head
Responsible person:	Director of Finance and Operations
Date Approved by Head:	20 th April 2026
Review Schedule:	Annually, Summer
Circulation:	Governors, all staff, parents, school website

1. Aim

Our aim is to deal with issues relating to dogs on our school grounds. There are four key issues to be explored:

- Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils
- Dogs being brought into the school as an interactive educational activity for pupils and dogs belonging to staff
- Members of the public using the area around the school grounds to walk their dogs
- Stray dogs on school grounds.

The Education Authority has recommended strongly to schools that dogs are only allowed on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff or members of the public as a registered service dog.

2. Advice to those bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times

It is recognised that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment.

- Please be aware that if approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds to be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the governors to apply the agreed policy.

- For the safety of the dog, as well as for the benefit of others, do not tie your pet to the school building and leave it unattended.
- All visiting dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult who is in control of them.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed inside any school buildings, only assistance dogs are allowed inside school buildings.
- Unsupervised assistance dogs must be secured in an appropriate crate when on the school site.
- Visiting dogs must not be left unsupervised on the school premises and must not be left in the sole care of anyone under the age of 18. Dogs should be kept away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with the dog.
- If any parent or pupil object to the animal's presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that this animal is kept away from them. If necessary, the animal may need exclusion from specific areas.
- The adult bringing the dog on site is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site 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 (dog waste must not be put into the school bins).
- All dogs coming onto school grounds must be properly vaccinated and treated for fleas and other parasites, regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed on school grounds until their health is restored.

A risk assessment has been completed for dogs on site which supports this policy and code of conduct. The School insurance company have been made aware of the School's policy and procedures for dogs on school sites.

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

It is understood that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the Head Teacher.

3. Dogs being brought in the school as an educational activity for pupils / Staff dogs

The School may wish from time to time to bring a dog into the school as part an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs

Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs. In addition, identified staff who have dogs who have a separate risk assessment in place, are also allowed to bring their dog into school with the Head's permission.

The following guidance should be adhered to:

- I. A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit.
- II. The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dogs nature and temperament.
- III. The organisation has public liability insurance.
- IV. Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out.
- V. The extent of interaction with the pupils and permission slips received.
- VI. Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.
- VII. All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of children.
- VIII. Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have.
- IX. Pupils have been informed of the appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in the conjunction with the organisation bringing in the dog and guidance taken from them.
- X. Good hygiene and hand-washing procedures in place for pupils.

4. Members of the public walking/exercising dogs within the school grounds /Richmond Park and at THS sports fixtures

Children at the School are sometimes taken to Richmond Park. The children are taught that they do not approach dogs that are unleashed in the park and they are taught to stay very still if a dog is running around in the park.

Staff on duty are to remain vigilant and ask the members of the public to maintain control of their dogs. If the safety of the children is in doubt teachers should escort the children back into school if it is safe to do so.

At THS sporting fixtures dogs belonging to parents / carers must always be kept on leads and remain with their owner, and not given to pupils to look after.

5. Stray dogs on school grounds

If there is a stray dog in the school grounds contact the local Council Dog Warden for advice and they will come and remove the dog from the school grounds. Lock down procedures are followed for stray dogs on school grounds. This involves pupils staying indoors.

Tower House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Approved and Signed by Head

Name: Neill Lunnon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neill Lunnon', written over a horizontal line.

Signature:

Date: 24th April 2026