



Somerford Primary School

NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES POLICY

Updated : September 2023

Review : September 2025

Governor Committee: Finance and resources

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 For the safety of the school community, Somerford Primary School has taken the decision to not allow dogs on the school premises at drop off and pick up times, unless used to assist a person with a visual impairment or disability.
- 1.2 The school will take all reasonably practicable steps to facilitate the use of an assistance dog on the premises in line with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. For the purposes of this policy, an assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy and guidance applies to all employees, parents, carers, guardians and visitors to Somerford Primary School.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The **governing board** is responsible for:
 - Ensuring the school's policies and procedures are compliant with its responsibilities under equalities legislation.
 - Reviewing and approving this policy with the headteacher as required.
- 3.2 The **headteacher** is responsible for:
 - Communicating to parents that the school operates a strict no-dog policy on its premises, excluding assistance dogs.
 - Contacting the police or the LA Dog Warden, where necessary.
 - Approving notifications from a parent regarding the need of an assistance dog on the school premises, e.g. when collecting their child.
 - Managing complaints in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.
- 3.3 All **staff members** are responsible for:
 - Reminding parents and visitors of the school's policy where appropriate.
 - Reporting any issues to the headteacher.
- 3.4 **Parents and visitors** are responsible for:
 - Adhering to this policy and not bringing their dog on to the school premises.
 - Notifying the school in advance when an assistance dog needs to be brought on to the school premises to allow the school to make suitable preparations.
 - Raising any queries or complaints with the headteacher.

4. PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES

- 4.1 When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premises at any time. This includes if the dog is tied up and left unattended at the school gates.
- 4.2 If a parent walks their dog to and from school, the school will ask that they always keep the dog on a lead near the school premises in order to ensure staff and pupils feel comfortable when arriving and leaving.
- 4.3 If a member of staff sees or is made aware of a parent who has brought a dog on to the school premises, the parent will be reminded of the school policy and asked politely to leave – the headteacher will then be informed as soon as possible.
- 4.4 If a parent requires the use of an assistance dog on the school premises at any time, they will contact the headteacher to notify them of their need to allow the school time to prepare and make any reasonable adjustments where necessary.
- 4.5 Schools are private property and Section 547 of the 1996 Education Act gives powers to Headteachers and school governors to ask trespassers or those visitors who do not conduct themselves properly to leave the site. If parents, carers, guardians or visitors repeatedly bring dogs on to the school site at drop off and pick up times despite being asked not to, the school will write to the relevant person and if needed, the governors will consider a ban from the premises.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 5.1 The school will publicly display signs making it clear that dogs are not allowed on the premises.
- 5.2 Any dog walkers will be asked to leave. If there are any issues (e.g. the member of the public refuses to leave) the headteacher will contact the police and/or the LA Dog Warden. The school will consider taking legal action under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 against members of the public causing a nuisance or disturbance by exercising animals in such a way as to disturb the normal running of the school.
- 5.3 If a dog appears on the school premises without an owner, the headteacher will contact the LA Dog Warden. [Report a stray dog | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcp.council.gov.uk/2018/07/26/report-a-stray-dog/). The site manager will ensure, if any animal faeces are present, they are removed.

6. ASSISTANCE DOGS

- 6.1 When it is known that an assistance dog will be required on the premises, pupils will be informed, to ensure they are not surprised by its presence. Pupils will be instructed on how they should act in the presence of the assistance dog.
- 6.2 Pupils with a known allergy to dogs will be kept away from areas where there is a high risk of allergens being present via the assistance dog.
- 6.3 For any visitors who use an assistance dog, a member of staff will be made available to help escort them around the premises. The dog will be kept on a lead at all times. The school will seek feedback from assistance dog users after visiting the site in order to understand how its provision could be improved.

7. READING DOGS FOR SCHOOLS

- 7.1 The school works with Pets as Therapy (PAT) to safely allow reading dogs on to the school site during the school day
- 7.2 Only PAT registered dogs are allowed to attend for this purpose. Dogs remain on the lead at all times and a risk assessment is carried out by PAT and the school in advance of the visits.
- 7.3 Consent is gained from parents in advance of children working with the PAT dogs
- 7.4 PAT dogs will enter and leave the school premises outside of normal drop off and pick up times

8. COMPLAINTS

- 8.1 Any complaints from parents about the school's No Dogs on School Premises Policy will be handled in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy. The headteacher will aim to resolve any issues amicably.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 9.1 The headteacher and the governing board will review this policy every two years. The policy will be reviewed following any incidents or disturbances involving dogs on the school premises, and following any advice from the Local Authority, police or other relevant bodies.