

**Halsall St Cuthbert's CE Primary School**  
**Dogs on School Grounds Policy**

There are three key issues to be explored:

1. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils.
2. Dogs being brought into the school as an interactive educational activity for pupils;
3. Members of the public using the school grounds to walk their dogs

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. The Governors have considered this advice seriously and have agreed to accept this recommendation.

### **1. Advice to those bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times**

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 playground and 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.

Consequently, dogs are not permitted to access the summer carnival, Family Fun Night, Bonfire Night, Sports Day, Caravan Clubs or any other event within the school grounds. The school's priority is the safeguarding of its children and staff.

### **2. Dogs being brought in the school as an educational activity for pupils**

From time to time to bring a dog might come into school as part an educational activity. This could be linked to a curriculum topic on animals or pets, fund raising for Guide Dogs or workshops by the Blind and Dogs Trust. In these cases, the following guidance should be adhered to:

- a) A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit and the dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dogs nature and temperament;
- b) The organisation has public liability insurance;
- c) Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out;
- d) The extent of interaction with the pupils and permission slips received;
- e) Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity;
- f) 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;
- g) Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have;
- h) Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

### **3. Members of the public walking/exercising dogs on school grounds**

School grounds are private property and should not be used for the purpose of exercising dogs. As we cannot guarantee that dog walkers will not leave dog mess or dogs will not urinate where children may play, people are not permitted to walk their dogs on the school premises. **No Dog Walkers** signs, are displayed around school.

When spotting a dog walker on the premises, he/she should be approached and asked to leave the grounds explaining that it is private property. If this continues or staff feel they are unable to approach the dog owner the school should contact the local Council dog warden or the police.

\* For these reasons, dogs are not permitted access onto school premises.

**The only exception to this is if they are working guide dogs. (engaged as a seeing aid)**

D Scholes : Head Teacher