



Dogs on School Grounds Policy

Updated January 2023

Dogs are an important part of life for many families, and we understand that for many, the dog is part of your family. Pets of all kinds can help children learn about health, relationships, love and care, as well as safety.

However, some children and families have chosen not to include dogs as part of their lives and we respect that also. Even well behaved dogs can be unpredictable at times, especially when surrounded by large numbers of excited children.

Local Authorities across the UK strongly recommend that dogs are not allowed onto school sites, with the exception of assistance dogs, or dogs visiting for educational purposes.

Downs Infant School has adopted this position of NO DOGS ON SITE. This means we reduce the risks of:

- Dog mess on the school site
- Children coming into contact with allergens
- Aggressive behaviour from dogs
- Injuries
- Children being surprised and frightened.

Not being responsible for a dog while on the school site also allows adults to give more attention to the children and this is appropriate in a school setting.

Where we invite dogs or other animals into school, they will be subject to a risk assessment which includes consideration of the benefits and intended consequences of their visit.

We ask that you respect this position and consider carefully whether to bring your dog on the school run, especially if it is young and cannot be left by the gate.

Useful resources:

<https://ourfamilydog.org.uk/dogs-on-school-grounds#:~:text=Many%20schools%20have%20a%20'no,generally%20allowed%20onto%20school%20premises.>