

MOORFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



DOGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES POLICY

Term Of Staff Review:	
Reviewed & Approved By Governing Body:	Spring 2024
Committee:	Resources and Staffing
Term of Next Review:	Spring 2027

Inspiring Creative Learners for Exciting Futures

Purpose

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent and fair policy. This has been necessary due to the increase in large dogs being brought onto the school premises at the start and end of the school day as well as during school events. Safety concerns have been raised by some of the school community and after polite requests, senior leaders have been challenged by those wanting to bring large dogs onto the school grounds.

Rationale

There are three key issues to be considered:

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 educational activity for pupils
3. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by those with medical conditions, mental and physical disabilities.

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 stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave predictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment or when unattended.

Consequently, **dogs are not permitted onto the school premises**, including the adjoining school playing field area. Furthermore, dogs are not to be left tied up unattended to the fence outside the Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 entrances and exits. The school's priority is the safeguarding of its children and staff.

Dogs being brought into the school as an educational activity for pupils

From time to time a dog might come into school as part of an educational activity. In these cases, the following guidance should be adhered to:

- Enhanced hygiene and hand washing procedures to be continued to be implemented.
- Consideration taken of any allergic reactions or phobias to dogs/animals that pupils or staff may have;
- All necessary arrangements, as agreed with the organisation responsible for the dog, must be put into place prior to the dog coming onto site.
- Alternative arrangements are to be made for pupils that may not wish to or are unable to participate in the activity;
- Parents/carers to be informed of the proposed visit
- The relevant organisation must provide the school with copies of their public liability and indemnity insurance details;
- The dog should be from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament;
- A risk assessment must be completed prior to the visit;

Requiring the use of a service or assistance dog due to a medical condition, mental or physical disability

We recognise that people with medical conditions, mental or physical disabilities including guide dog owners and other blind or partially sighted people have important rights under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 consolidates and replaces previous discrimination legislation including the Disability Discrimination Act in England, Wales and Scotland.

Blind or Partially Sighted

- The school will actively work with blind and partially sighted pupils and parents/carers in line with the school's accessibility plan. The school will make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the relevant individual's needs which can include the use of a guide/service dog whilst on school grounds.

Medical Conditions, Mental and/or Physical Disabilities

- The school will actively work with members of the school community who have a service or assistance dog due to a medical condition, mental or physical disability and wish to bring them on the school premises.

NB It may be necessary to share medical evidence in relation to a medical condition or disability and/or provide evidence and as to the reason why the dog is referred to as a service or assistance dog as well as the dog's service/assistance registration details. Please see further details in Appendix A from supportdogcertification.org

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Appendix A

Supportdogcertification.org

According to Assistance Dogs International, only someone with at least one disability or illness that affects daily activity is entitled to get a service dog to support his or her life or job. The illnesses and disabilities should be diagnosed by medical professionals. Service dogs should improve the health and quality of life for their owners.

As service dogs must undergo rigorous training and serve their handlers in different locations, they have to overcome lots of difficulties during training and restrain their eagerness to play or rest when working for humans. According to professional trainers, a qualified service dog should have a good personality, have been systematically trained and passed public access tests. It usually takes one to two years to fully train a service dog. Therefore, a qualified service dog should be older than one year.

The UK Equality Act of 2010 (EA) protects service dogs in the UK from unlawful discrimination when entering places where animals are prohibited or when accompanying owners by taxi or airplane. Business owners and service providers are required to accommodate individuals with disabilities as well as grant the service dog access to publicly accessible premises and means of transport.

There is no official registration for assistance dogs granted by the UK government. However, most UK companies or premises recognise the service dog that has been trained and certified by one of the following organisations: *Assistance Dogs International (ADI)* and *The International Guide Dog Foundation (IGDF)*.

They belong to Assistance Dog UK (ADUK) and cover many types of service dogs, including:

- Service dogs for autism
- Mobility assistance dogs
- Guide dogs for the blind
- Hearing dogs for deaf people
- Medical detection dogs
- Seizure alert/response dogs