



St Peter's

Church of England (Aided) Junior School

Learning and Living Life in all its Fullness

John 10:10 – 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.
Inspired by John 10:10, we strive for all members of our community to learn and live
'Life in all its Fullness'

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

Aims

To ensure the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors to St Peter's and to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals in the vicinity of the school grounds

The context of the policy:

Governors and staff recognise that dogs are an important part of life for some of our families and, as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid for stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding, and this is why our insured and trained therapy dog, Humphrey, comes to school.

The School also recognises that even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in an unfamiliar, busy, noisy and crowded school environment and that this can lead to unexpected behaviour in even the best-behaved pet. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs especially where they are not used to being with them.

It is in considering this context that this Policy and Code of Conduct has been created.

Code of Conduct

All staff, parents and any visitors intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to this Code of Conduct which states:

- Only Humphrey or assistance dogs are allowed inside the school building;
- When bringing dogs on to the site, dog owners should know their dog will not pose a risk to children or other dogs – if in doubt, be safe and leave your dog at home;
- It is understood that bringing dogs to school is a privilege, not a right, and the school reserves the right to ask that some, or all dogs, are not brought to school;
- All visiting dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog close to the adult who is control of them. Please do not have your dog on an extending lead;
- Visiting dogs must not be left unsupervised and must be in the care of an adult. Dogs should be kept away from the playground gate so that children have a choice whether they want to come in close proximity with dogs;
- If any parent or pupil objects to an animal's immediate presence, then the adult with control must be able to ensure that this animal is distanced away from them;
- The adult bringing the dog on site is responsible for picking up any soiling by their dog - there is a Rushmoor waste bin suitable for disposing of bags directly outside the school's main gate.

Date ratified: 18 October 2023

Review date: Autumn 2026