

Dogs at School Policy

St James Senior Boys' School

Aims

- To allow staff, pupils and visitors to bring their dogs onto the school estate when appropriate, while ensuring the safety of all site users.
- To ensure owners bringing dogs onto the school estate are fully aware of their responsibilities.

Scope

- This policy applies to all persons whilst on the school estate.
- This policy does not apply to assistance animals. In accordance with the Equality Act, reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate any assistance animals (guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, etc).
- The term “school estate” in this policy includes all outdoor areas and buildings within the school grounds.
- The term “owner” in this policy applies to any person bringing a dog onto the school estate, whether that dog is their personal property not.

Legislation

- There is no specific legislation relating to the keeping or bringing of pet animals into the workplace, although the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act does require the employer to ensure the safety, health and welfare, so far as is reasonably practicable, of its personnel and others.

Objections

- All site users have the right to state their objection (e.g. an allergy, phobia or religious grounds) to an animal's presence in the area where they work or have cause to visit on a regular basis.

Rules and Requirements

- Prior to bringing a dog onto the school estate, owners must:
 - Have written permission from the Headteacher.
 - Confirm that they have read, understood and will abide by this policy.
 - Confirm that their dog has no history of aggressive behaviour.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in the permission to bring a dog onto the school estate being withdrawn.
- Owners are responsible for their dogs at all times. Persons bringing animals onto the school estate may be held liable for any injury to staff, pupils or visitors, or damage caused to the grounds, premises, facilities or furnishings by their dog; therefore appropriate third party insurance cover is recommended.
- Dogs must be kept under the full control and supervision of their owner at all times.
- Dogs are not allowed in any building on the school estate (with the exception of your residence for staff that live on site and have received the required permission) between 07:30 and 17:30 on weekdays during term time (including INSET days), between 08:30 and 11:15 on Saturdays during term time, and during school events, lettings or St David's Enterprise events.

- Dogs must be kept on a lead between 07:30 and 17:30 on weekdays during term time (including INSET days), between 08:30 and 11:15 on Saturdays during term time, and during school events, lettings or St David's Enterprise events.
- As a general principle, in outdoor areas of the school estate, dogs should be kept out of areas being used either by the school population, or used by external parties authorised to do so. Dogs may be walked on a lead around the circumference of the fields/other areas when they are in use as long as they are kept away from those using the fields/area.
- Dogs are not allowed in the Refectory, Catering Kitchen, Staff Room, toilets or shower areas at any time.
- Owners must take measures to prevent dog fights and dogs biting or attacking people or other animals.
- Owners must take measures to ensure their dog does not cause an accident or create slip or trip hazards.
- Owners are responsible for cleaning up their dog's waste immediately, and disposing of it in a clean and hygienic fashion.
- Owners must take measures to prevent infections from dogs causing health problems to staff, pupils or visitors
- Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought onto school estate.
- Bitches should not be brought onto the school estate while in season.
- Dogs with young puppies (those under the age of 8 weeks) must not be brought onto the school estate as there is the risk of the mother becoming overprotective, which may cause her to react out of character.
- It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that any legal requirements in the keeping of animals are met.
- Owners are responsible for the safety and welfare of their dog at all times, including during emergency evacuations. Owners must ensure that their dog does not present a hazard to others during an emergency evacuation.

Stray/Unsupervised Dogs

Any stray/unsupervised dogs on the school estate should be reported to a member of the Estates Team immediately. The Estates Team will then be report this to Spelthorne Environmental Health and Licensing Team Stray Dogs Department (<https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/1979/Stray-dogs>) who will come and remove the dog.

Date: 29th June 2016