



## GREENFIELD SCHOOL

### **Animals on Site Policy 2024-2025**

#### **1. Aims**

To ensure the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors to the School and to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the School site.

#### **2. Introduction**

Governors and staff recognise that animals are an important part of life for some families and, as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from School.

The value of “pet therapy” is widely accepted as a powerful aid to a child’s development and wellbeing. The School recognises that a visiting animal offers the potential for a very positive learning experience for children to learn about taking care and showing responsibility for animals as well as developing an understanding of the importance of the humane treatment of living creatures.

The School also recognises that, as part of the children’s educational experiences, there may be times that animals are brought onto site by licensed handlers.

The School acknowledges the views of families who have chosen not to have an animal. It also recognises that bringing animals onto school premises might pose a health and safety risk to pupils and others on site and could be unsettling for them as they arrive and leave School. There are added risks of animals fouling or causing injury to a person.

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

#### **3. School’s approach to Animals in the Car Park**

Parents who bring their dog into the school grounds, while walking their children to or from school, should keep their dog on a short lead at all times. The adult must always have control of the dog – children must never be left alone with or in charge of the dog. The adult must keep their dog away from other dogs and other children in the Car Park as it is not always possible to gauge how dogs can react towards each other.

Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately. Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought onto the school grounds.

**4. School's approach to Animals past the fencing/gates/doors into the School site and School buildings**

All visiting animals to School past the Car Park (the line of the fencing, gates, doors into the School) must be pre-approved and a risk assessment must be completed. The risk assessment will include consideration of medical concerns of those on site.

For any authorised animal visiting the site, the registered owner is responsible for:


- The animal at all times
- Cleaning up and removing any soiling from the site
- Ensuring all vaccinations and flea treatments are up to date
- Ensuring claws are kept trimmed

In line with the RSPCA guidance, the School does not support the keeping of pets on the school site.

The School will notify pupil's parents when an animal is being introduced into the classroom. The School is particularly keen to support the introduction of service animals such as hearing dogs, therapy dogs or seeing dogs and this reflects the School's ethos of celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion.

Animals within the School will be handled, treated, and cared for in a humane manner.

Reviewed: September 2024



Chair

Chair of the Board of Governors

Next Review Date September 2025