



Sandbrook Community Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs K Charlton

Deputy Head: Miss F Hadfield Deputy Head: Mrs S Armitage

Policy - Dogs on School Grounds



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. In our teaching we promote the relationship between people and their pets and accept and encourage the idea of pets as 'family members'.

However, increased enrolments at Sandbrook Community Primary School in recent years have resulted in more dogs being brought onto school grounds. **Recently, we have received much feedback from parents and carers, indicating that many are finding the presence of dogs in the playground stressful, even frightening, particularly for younger children.** Many have expressed the opinion that a school playground is not an appropriate place for dogs and are concerned about the sheer number of dogs, dogs fighting and dogs being left unattended at the edge of the playground. We are concerned that even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in busy, noisy and crowded school environments and that this can lead to dog fights/snapping at each other. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs or when in contact with dogs and this can potentially lead to a child being bitten.

Governors, staff and parents also have health and safety concerns about dog fouling, particularly on the school field but we recognise that this is a separate issue; **parents bringing dogs into the school grounds have behaved responsibly and there is no suggestion that these dogs have left mess behind.**

Therefore the Governing Body has agreed that with effect from the beginning of the Autumn Term 2016, **it is now a strict policy that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of Sandbrook Community Primary School at any time** (unless used as an aid to visual impairment or disability). Governors' also kindly request that dogs are not tied up and left unattended at the school gates. As we will have building work starting in October, school entrances and exits will be busier than usual and tied up dogs may cause a hazard.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please write to the *Governing Board* and your concerns will be discussed at the next Governing Board meeting.

Kind regards

Katie Charlton
Headteacher

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