Beachborough School Dogs on School Grounds Policy

Introduction

This policy applies to all visitors, parents, guardians and members of the school community who wish to bring a dog onto the school site, with the exception of individuals who use a trained assistance or guide dog in support of a disability or medical need.

Beachborough is a dog-friendly school. We recognise that dogs form an important part of family life and that many families walk their dogs when bringing children to and from school. We seek to balance this positive aspect of community life with our responsibility to provide a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment for all pupils, staff and visitors. The policy is based on the principle that some children and adults may be fearful of dogs, have allergies, cultural sensitivities, or simply wish to avoid contact with animals. The welfare and safety of pupils must always be our primary consideration.

Drop-Off and Collection Times

Drop-off and collection periods are particularly busy times on the school site.

To ensure the safe movement of pupils and families:

- Dogs must not be brought to pupil collection points or areas where children are gathering before or after school.
- Dogs must not be taken to classroom entrances, the Boardman building entrances, playground entrances or other designated pupil congregation areas.
- Parents walking dogs are expected to remain on designated pathways and avoid busy pupil gathering areas.

Where possible, families bringing dogs should make arrangements to keep a suitable distance from children entering or leaving school.

Dogs at School Events and Fixtures

Dogs may be brought to school events, sports fixtures and community activities, provided that the expectations set out in this policy are followed at all times.

The school reserves the right to restrict the presence of dogs at specific events where safeguarding, health and safety, or operational considerations make this necessary.

Code of Conduct for Dog Owners

When on school grounds:

1. **Dogs Must Be Kept on a Lead**
    a. Dogs must remain on a lead at all times.
    b. Leads must be held by a responsible adult aged 18 or over.
    c. Leads must be kept short enough to ensure that the dog remains close to the supervising adult and cannot approach pupils, staff or visitors without invitation.

2. Dogs Must Remain Under Close Control

a. Dogs must remain within arm's reach of the supervising adult.
b. Dogs must not jump up at, run towards, or make physical contact with pupils, staff or visitors.
c. Owners must recognise that behaviour perceived as friendly by a dog owner may nevertheless cause distress to a child.

3. Restricted Areas

Dogs are **not** permitted:

a. Inside any school building.
b. In playgrounds or play areas.
c. In the Boardman play areas.
d. On children's playing fields during periods of pupil use.
e. On marked sports pitches.
f. In any area temporarily designated as dog-free by the school.

4. Supervision

a. Dogs must never be left unattended anywhere on the school site.
b. Dogs must not be tied to railings, fences, gates or buildings.
c. The supervising adult remains responsible for the dog at all times.

5. Cleanliness

a. Owners must immediately clear any fouling.
b. Dog waste must be removed from the site and disposed of appropriately.
c. Repeated incidents of fouling may result in permission to bring a dog onto the school site being withdrawn.

6. Suitability of Dogs

Dogs must not be brought onto the school site if they:

a. Are uncomfortable in busy, noisy or crowded environments.
b. Display reactive, aggressive or unpredictable behaviour.
c. Have a known history of aggression towards people or other animals.
d. Belong to a breed prohibited under current legislation.

Respect for Pupils

The school recognises that some pupils may be fearful of dogs or have medical, cultural or personal reasons for wishing to avoid contact with animals.

Dog owners must:

a. Respect children's personal space.
b. Ensure dogs do not approach children unless invited to do so by both the child and their parent or supervising adult.
c. Follow any reasonable request from a member of staff regarding the movement or management of their dog.

Enforcement

The school expects all members of the community to comply with this policy.

Where the policy is not followed:

a. Members of staff may ask owners to move to a different area of the site.
b. Members of staff may require an owner and their dog to leave the school grounds immediately.
c. Repeated breaches may result in the withdrawal of permission for that individual to bring a dog onto the school site in the future.

The Head/Bursar reserve the right to make decisions regarding the presence of dogs on school grounds where circumstances require.

Educational Activities

From time to time, the school may invite dogs onto site as part of educational, wellbeing or therapeutic activities. This may include visits from assistance dogs, therapy dogs or recognised organisations delivering educational programmes. Appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken for such activities.

Beachborough remains a dog-friendly school. We believe that, when managed appropriately, dogs can be a positive part of school community life. This policy exists to ensure that the interests of dog owners are balanced with the safety, comfort and wellbeing of all members of the school community.

Beachborough

Visual Summary to be posted on school site:

NO DOGS

- At drop-off collection points
- At classroom doors
- In playgrounds
- In Boardman play areas
- On sports pitches

DOGS WELCOME

- On perimeter pathways
- At fixtures/events (under control)
- On a short lead held by an adult