



Bowden House School – on-site dog(s) Policy and Risk Assessment

Introduction:

Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of students and staff to lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. Bowden House School will permit dogs that belong to staff members or visitors, access to the school premises but must comply with the Risk Assessment requirements below.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all students or adults but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent/carer who does not want their child to interact with any dog on the school site or a member of staff is not comfortable in close proximity to a dog, is invited to contact the Headteacher and inform him of their wishes. It is expected that all dogs on the school site, will be fit and healthy; that the owners will have the necessary insurance cover and that the dog remains the responsibility of the owner(s) or nominated members of staff.

The risk assessment below is a working document which will be checked annually by key staff and the Governing Body.

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1 - 5	Controls in place	Review date
Any dog getting over excited or reacting badly when interacting with students/staff members/visitors(s)	student(s)/staff member(s)/visitors(s) are scratched or bitten by a dog	3	<p>Any dog on the school site will always be in the care of a responsible adult(s) and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises</p> <p>Any dog on school premises will be well-behaved and healthy. Any dog who is unwell, should not be on the school site particularly if students are present</p> <p>Staff will avoid areas if they are stressed being around dogs</p> <p>All dogs will be kept on a lead when outside school buildings</p> <p>Students will be taught about the consequences of their actions if they tease or suddenly approach a dog</p>	
Any dog causing allergies or illness	Students/staff members or visitors have allergic reactions	2	<p>Parents/carers will be asked to inform the school of any known allergies before any dog visits the school</p> <p>A list of any student/staff member/visitor who should not interact with a dog, will be kept in school</p> <p>Students/staff will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of close contact with a dog</p> <p>Students/staff will be advised to wash their hands after handling a dog</p> <p>Immediate medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside once the dog and any person are kept apart</p>	

<p>Students getting germs from the dog.</p>	<p>Students/staff members or visitors could contract diseases that can be carried by dogs</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site, the owner (or nominated person) is responsible for clearing this up immediately and disposing of the waste in a safe way</p> <p>It will be expected that owners who want to bring their dogs onto the school site, will be responsible for all immunisations</p> <p>It will be expected that flea treatment is carried out at the required intervals</p> <p>No dog will be allowed in the school dining hall at mealtimes and never in the food preparation area.</p>	
<p>School emergency (including fire drills)</p>	<p>All students/staff members and visitors on the school site, will be warned of the testing of any alarms which could cause distress to dogs</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>In the event of an emergency, all must attend the muster point. Whoever is responsible for any of the dogs, must proceed to the exit and take their pet to an area away from other people but within a safe distance from the school buildings.</p>	

KEY: 1 - 2 Low risk

3 - 4 Medium risk

5 - High risk

Completed and signed/dated by dog owner: _____ Date _____

February 2024

