



ANIMALS ON SITE POLICY

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This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation and Disability.

It is the policy of Greenleas school that no animals are permitted to be brought on to the school site without the prior approval of the Head Teacher or Governing Board.

Exceptions to this are:

- Registered assistance animals
- Animals for organised school activities e.g. Visiting farm, hatching of chicks
- PTA Events
- School Pet Therapy animals

In all cases, other than assistance dogs, where animals are brought on to site a Risk Assessment must be completed and evidence of appropriate insurance provided prior to the visit.

Assistance animals

Assistance animals from accredited bodies e.g. Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) are allowed on site with no prior permission from the Head Teacher or Governing Board.

Animals used for therapy but which are not registered assistance dogs would normally be allowed on to the school site but the Head Teacher should be contacted in advance to approve access.

Animals for organised school activities

Any activity where it is planned that animals are to be brought on to site to support the school curriculum must be approved by the Head Teacher or her delegated representative.

Any such visit should form part of the written curriculum planning.

A Risk Assessment for the visit must be submitted on Evolve or where that is not appropriate a copy of the Risk Assessment must be sent to the School Business Manager.

Written evidence of the appropriate insurance must be submitted in advance of the visit and submitted via Evolve or where that is not appropriate a copy must be sent to the School Business Manager.

There should be no contact with animals brought into school other than contact supervised by an appropriately trained and insured individual. Where it has been agreed that a pupil or their parent can bring in a pet to support the curriculum no contact is allowed.

PTA Events

Any PTA activity where it is planned that animals are to be brought on to site must be approved by the Head Teacher or her delegated representative.

A Risk Assessment for the visit must be completed and retained by the PTA a copy of which should be submitted to the School Business Manager.

Written evidence of the appropriate insurance must be retained by the PTA a copy of which should be submitted to the School Business Manager.

There should be no contact with animals at the event other than contact supervised by an appropriately trained and insured individual.

School Pet Therapy animals

Any animal brought on to the site as part of the Pets as Therapy Scheme or with the intention to train to be with the support of a qualified trainer and assessors' approval must be approved by that body and comply with the following:

- Dogs must be a minimum age of 9 months and have been with their owner for at least 6 months to be working with children.
- If training a puppy for this purpose, it should be following a training programme led by an assessor.
- The dog / puppy will need training to prepare them for the demands the role will place on them. Thorough socialisation and completing a course of training classes the dog will be introduced to the school environment.
- They should be regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed on the school premises until their health is restored.
- All animals should have received relevant inoculations - records are required by the charity and each volunteer is requested to send copies when boosters have been administered.
- All visiting pets must be fully vaccinated, wormed and protected against fleas.
- Pets should have been exercised before being allowed to work with children.
- All dogs and cats undertake or be training to complete a Temperament Assessment –this assessment is undertaken by an accredited Pets As Therapy Temperament Assessor. The assessment checks that the dog is sociable and friendly that it is calm and gentle when being stroked or handled and that they are not overly fearful of new and unexpected stimuli.

The Pets as Therapy dog owner/handler has the responsibility to ensure that:

- Dogs are physically fit before visiting the school environment
- Dogs are kept on a lead throughout the work
- They remain with the dog at all times
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard, i.e. not wet, muddy etc. Natural relief for dogs is taken into account prior to visiting

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring that the school has a written policy which is regularly reviewed.
- The Headteacher is responsible for implementing this policy. The Headteacher may delegate this responsibility to the Deputy Head Teachers.
- Teachers and staff are required to abide by this policy.
- The Health and Safety Officer is responsible for providing information, advice and guidance as and when required.