



# Dore Primary School

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@doreprimary



10 February 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

## Policy on 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. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

However, we have received a number of complaints 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 an opinion that a school playground is not an appropriate place for dogs and are concerned about the sheer numbers of dogs and dogs being unattended in and around school premises.

We are concerned that even well behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in busy, noisy and crowded school environments. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs or when in contact with dogs and this could potentially lead to a child being bitten.

Governors and staff have legitimate health & safety concerns about dog fouling, particularly on the school grassed areas. Despite several emails from school highlighting this issue, there have been a number of instances recently where children and parents have trodden in dog faeces within the school premises which has been particularly traumatic for the children.

The issue of allowing dogs on school premises was recently discussed by the School Change Team at the request of the governing body, who recommended to Governors that dogs should not be allowed on school premises, based on Health & Safety concerns.

The Governing Body has subsequently decided that with immediate effect, it is now the school policy that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of Dore Primary School at any time (unless used as an aid to visual impairment or disability).

In making the decision, governors noted that advice received from the local authority indicates that the vast majority of other schools are also concerned as to the health & safety issue of dogs being allowed on school premises, and therefore do not allow dogs on site.

Governors also request that dogs are not tied up and left unattended at the school gates or fences surrounding the school premises.

We thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Kind regards

Lynnette Glossop – Headteacher  
Debbie Miller – Chair of Governors  
James Hope-Gill – Governor & Chair of School Change Team

