



## **Code of Conduct for individuals bringing dogs onto school premises whilst dropping off or collecting their child from school**

- The appropriateness of behaviour of the dog is the responsibility of the person bringing the dog onto school grounds at all times
- Dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times (Where Flexi type leads are used these should be at their shortest setting)
- Dogs should not be allowed to become a nuisance to others
- Dogs that cannot be adequately controlled at all times must not be brought on to school premises
- Dogs are **never** to be left unattended within the school grounds at any time
- Dogs are **never** to be left tied up within the school grounds at any time
- School play grounds or grassed areas are not to be used for exercising dogs
- Dogs' excrement must be cleared up by the owner immediately and taken off school premises, not disposed of in school bins
- Dogs are not to be brought to large scale school events such as Sports Days, Family Picnics and Sponsored Walks
- To avoid injury, congestion or fear of dogs by children, owners should stand with dogs where there is plenty of space, they should not block emergency exit routes and not stand where paths/areas are narrow/restricted (e.g. paths, between mobiles and Kingswood nursery)
- Not everyone likes dogs or are used to how dogs can behave – owners should only allow strangers (including children) to approach their dog(s) if they are sure their dog will stay calm during any interaction with others.
- Children can make sudden movements, which can disconcert dogs; the person controlling the dog must take this into account.
- Remember children play in the area outside the school fence - do not use this area as a dogs' toilet.
- Dore Primary School does not endorse the bringing of dogs on to school premises. The School cannot be held responsible for the actions of any third parties who are not under its direct control; this includes any negligent acts or omissions of any dog owner whilst their dogs are on the school premises. Consequently, the school and its governing body strongly recommend that any owner of a dog who either brings their dog onto the school premises themselves or allows a third party to bring the same dog onto the school premises has adequate pet insurance in place which includes third party liability cover (of at least £1 million).

Anyone who abuses this code of conduct will be asked by the governing body not to bring their dog(s) onto school grounds.

Following significant parental concern re. the bringing of dogs into school, the SCT organised a parental survey in 2009. There were many balanced and constructive comments on both sides of the discussion with large numbers responding and 50/50 opinion. We recognise that, as part of a healthy lifestyle, increasing numbers of parents are walking their children to school and dog owners are also taking this opportunity to exercise their dog. We also recognise that the majority of people who bring dogs onto school grounds are responsible dog owners. This code of conduct has been produced in consultation with the local authority, school governors, senior school leaders, staff and in consultation with parents. We expect this to enable a self-policing approach amongst those bringing dogs to school. Since the Code of Conduct was issued, there have been very few concerns raised over parents bringing their dogs onto the school site. Thank you to all those who follow this code. We please ask that all dog owners abide by this code of conduct.

Original created by SCT and GB 2009 – Updated Dec 2012