



DOG POLICY

Definition:

Many families in our community own dogs that are brought into the school grounds. Their care and conduct are the responsibility of all stakeholders.

Rationale:

Dogs are an important part of life for many RPS families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school.

While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an education experience, it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening. RPS aims to introduce a policy that is fair to all parties and establishes clear guidelines concerning the presence of dogs in, and close to, the school grounds.

Dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and even dog bites.

Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters will also be dealt with this policy.

This Policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the RPS community

Aims:

- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the RPS community.
- To minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
- To separate children from dogs in the school ground at the busiest (and noisiest) times, such as the start and end of the school day.

Implementation:

Regulations concerning dogs on RPS grounds are as follows:

- Dogs must be under control, and on-lead, at all times.
- Dogs cannot be tied-up and/or left unattended at any time.
- Owners must pick-up, and appropriately dispose of, their dog's excrement.
- **Dogs are not allowed** in the immediate vicinity of the school entrances or inside school buildings during the course of the school term.

RPS is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets, in a bid to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's Strategic Planning and Review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **2015**