



*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

## Dogs on School Site Policy

Ratified By	FGB
Date	26/06/2023
Minute	9
Review Date	Summer 2025
<b>Policy Statement</b>	
What is the policy for?	All staff members of Norwood Primary School
Who has devised and contributed to this policy?	SLT, Governors and Health and Safety Delegates
How will this policy be communicated?	Via 365 and the school website
How will this policy be monitored?	By SLT and site staff
Which other policies are linked to this policy?	All other Health and Safety Policies

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## Statement of intent

For the safety of the school community, [Norwood Primary School](#) has taken the decision to not allow dogs on the school premises at any time, unless

- used to assist a person with a visual impairment or disability. The school will take all reasonably practicable steps to facilitate the use of an assistance dog on the premises in line with its duties under the Equality Act 2010
- the dog is the School Dog, for which a fully comprehensive risk assessment is in place

For the purposes of this policy, an assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country.

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Can you ask for proof of assistance dog UK? ^

There is no register or certification process for assistance dogs in the UK. Whilst all assistance dogs trained by members of ADUK are issued an ADUK Identification Booklet, not all assistance dog owners have papers or ID, nor do they require ID by law.



[assistancedogs.org.uk](https://www.assistancedogs.org.uk)

## **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Animals in School Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- School and Site Security Policy

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school's policies and procedures are compliant with its responsibilities under equalities legislation.
- Reviewing and approving this policy with the headteacher as required.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Communicating to parents that the school operates a strict no-dog policy on its premises, excluding assistance dogs/school dog
- Contacting the police or the LA Dog Warden, where necessary.
- Approving notifications from a parent regarding the need of an assistance dog on the school premises, e.g. when collecting their child.
- Managing complaints in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Liaising with the headteacher where necessary.
- Ensuring that appropriate preparations and reasonable adjustments are made when an assistance dog is expected on the school premises.
- Ensuring that any animal faeces present on the premises are removed as quickly as possible.
- Listening to and, where appropriate, implementing feedback received from owners of assistance dogs to improve the school's provision.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Reminding parents and visitors of the school's policy where appropriate.
- Reporting any issues to the headteacher.

Parents and visitors are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and not bringing their dog on to the school premises.
- Notifying the school in advance when an assistance dog needs to be brought on to the school premises to allow the school to make suitable preparations.
- Raising any queries or complaints with the headteacher.

### **Pick-up and drop-off times**

When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premises at any time. This includes if the dog is tied up and left unattended at the school gates. If a parent walks their dog to and from school, the school will ask that they always keep the dog on a lead near the school premises in order to ensure staff and pupils feel comfortable when arriving and leaving.

If a member of staff sees or is made aware of a parent who has brought a dog on to the school premises, the parent will be asked politely to leave.

If a parent requires the use of an assistance dog on the school premises at any time, they will contact the headteacher to notify them of their need to allow the school time to prepare and make any reasonable adjustments where necessary.

### **Members of the public**

The school will publicly display signs making it clear that dogs are not allowed on the premises. Any dog walkers will be asked to leave. If there are any issues, e.g. the member of the public refuses to leave, the headteacher will contact the police and/or the LA Dog Warden. The school will consider taking legal action under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 against members of the public causing a nuisance or disturbance by exercising animals in such a way as to disturb the normal running of the school.

If a dog appears on the school premises without an owner, the headteacher will contact the LA Dog Warden. The site manager will ensure that if any animal faeces are present, they are removed.

### **Assistance dogs**

**What is an assistance dog? – According to ADUK - <https://www.assistedogs.org.uk/the-law/>**

The Equality Act lays out that in relation to protecting the rights of a disabled people when accessing private hire transport, an Assistance dog means

- (a) a dog which has been trained to guide a blind person;
- (b) a dog which has been trained to assist a deaf person;
- (c) a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
- (d) a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability (other than one falling within paragraph (c)) of a prescribed kind.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission states that assistance dogs:

- are highly trained
- will not wander freely around the premises
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to its owner and are trained to go to the toilet on command and so are unlikely to foul in a public place

- Most are instantly recognisable by the harness or identifying dog jacket they wear.

It is not a legal requirement for Assistance Dog users to provide ID but all ADUK members issue the people and dog partnerships they work with ID booklets.

Not all assistance dogs are trained by ADUK members or candidates.

When it is known that an assistance dog will be required on the premises, pupils will be informed to ensure they are not surprised by its presence. Pupils will be instructed on how they should act in the presence of the assistance dog, and the importance of following these instructions. Pupils that do not follow these instructions will be disciplined in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Pupils with a known allergy to dogs will be kept away from areas where there is a high risk of allergens being present via the assistance dog. Allergies will be managed in line with the school's Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy.

For any visitors who use an assistance dog, a member of staff will be made available to help escort them around the premises. The dog will be kept on a lead at all times. The school will seek feedback from assistance dog users after visiting the site in order to understand how its provision could be improved.

Taking Advice from Assistance Dog UK - <https://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/the-law/> - with particular reference to school settings:

*'Disabled people that use assistance dogs have important rights under the Equality Act 2010. The law protects people with disabilities to ensure that they can enjoy the same rights as everyone else to sue the services supplied by shops, banks, hotels, libraries, pubs, taxis and restaurants.*

*Service providers, including schools, must make reasonable adjustments for disabled people who use an assistance dog in order for them to access their services or venues.*

*Some assistance dog owners will want to accompany their children onto the school grounds whilst using their assistance dog. Anyone who has received training from an ADUK member will have been encouraged to have a conversation about this with the school in question before they bring the dog onto school grounds.*

*If a school has concerns about the behaviour of an assistance dog, or believes that there is a risk to the safety of the children, they would have reasonable cause to have a conversation with the assistance dog's owner about how to eliminate such risks.'*

## **Complaints**

Any complaints from parents about the school's No Dogs on School Premises Policy will be handled in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy. The headteacher will aim to resolve any issues amicably and will be open to feedback from parents.

# How to behave around assistance dogs

If you are an animal-lover, you would be forgiven for wanting to approach an assistance dog. However, no matter how irresistible, distracting any kind of service dog could put their owner in danger.

There are few dos and don'ts that you should adhere to if you see an assistance dog, these include:

## Do speak to the handler

- Should you need to approach an assistance dog, make sure to speak to the handler first. Speaking or touching may confuse the dog, as they are trained to focus on their task in hand.



## Don't pet the dog

- It may be tempting to pet or touch an assistance dog, but you should only do so after receiving permission from the dog's handler. Any irregular movements could affect the dog's attentiveness.



## Don't offer food

- Avoid offering food to an assistance dog. As well as distracting the dog from its duties, it could make him or her ill.



## Don't allow other pets to interact

- 🐾 If you have a pet with you, do not let it approach the assistance dog without first consulting the handler. This could lead to an unwanted altercation between the animals.



## Do ask before helping

- 🐾 If you think a handler needs help, ask before acting. Grabbing the assistance dog's lead could cause confusion.



\*Data taken from [www.assistedogs.org.uk](http://www.assistedogs.org.uk)



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