Dogs on Site Policy

December 2025

Review: December 2028

This policy is intended to ensure that our children, staff, contractors and visitors are kept safe and secure whilst on-site.

This policy should benefit the users of the school sites through:

- A consistent approach from the school that is understood by all
- A safe environment
- A reduction in the risk to children, staff and visitors

Agreed Procedure:

Norfolk County Council and the Children's Services Department strongly discourage dogs on school sites.

It is recommended that schools strongly discourage parents from bringing dogs on site or from tying them up at the school entrance unattended. Following this guidance, it has been decided that, **dogs are not allowed on the school grounds**, with the exception of guide/assistance dogs. Dogs may also be brought in to school very occasionally as part of the curriculum or collective worship.

The school grounds should not be used for walking dogs, even when the school is closed or on holiday. No dogs should be left tied up to the school gates **and unattended**. There will be inspections of the school grounds and any faeces promptly removed if noticed or reported.

Any adults bringing a dog on to the school site will be reminded of the school's policy and asked to take the dog off site.

We can promote this policy through reminders in the school newsletters, website and assemblies. This also applies to events outside of school times, eg. May Fair.

Associated risks:

- **Bites.** The main risk from dogs is bites and possible secondary infection that may result from bites. Various phobias may also be associated with seeing dogs or the possibility of interacting with dogs more notably relating to the dogs fighting on school sites, which is often frightening to many, young children and even some adults.
- **Allergic Reaction.** The proteins from the hair, saliva or urine of dogs may trigger an allergic reaction that attacks the eyes and airways and may result in asthmatic symptoms.
- **Toxicariasis.** Dog faeces are associated with a number of transmissible diseases and infections. The most widely known health risk is Toxicariasis which is passed from the parasite Toxocara; round worm commonly found in dogs and puppies. Toxocara eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals and can remain in soil for several years after faeces have disappeared.
- **General unpleasantness.** When children playing in the school grounds fall onto faeces left by dogs, it is unpleasant for the child concerned and the member of staff who helps to clean up the child.

This policy has been agreed by the governing body of Little Melton Primary School.