

ST MARY'S BENTWORTH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL ANIMALS ON SCHOOL SITE/GROUNDS POLICY

Date of implementation: November 2025

Date of Review: **November 2027**



Ownership: Resources Committee	
Review Committee: Resources Committee, Headteacher	Linked to: H&S and Safeguarding Policies; Site Management Procedures
Communicated to: Parents/Carers, Visitors, Extended school day providers; Staff and Full Governing Body	
Evaluation: (inc links to evidence)	

Governors and staff recognise that animals 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 and dogs to and from school.

However, animals can behave unpredictably when placed in busy, noisy and crowded school environments and the presence of animals in this situation is potentially dangerous.

We have therefore taken the advice of Children's Services Health and Safety Team who strongly discourage parents from bringing animals on to the site. Therefore our school policy is that animals are **not** allowed on the site *during school hours and for 15 minutes prior to the start and after the end of the school day.*

Parents/carers are welcome to bring their dog on lead for the purpose of delivery/collection of a pupil at the start or end of the school day as set out in the options below:

- via the school rear pedestrian gate by the Church, your child enters site but the dog on lead must remain off school site by the gate

OR

- via front inner pedestrian gate by the steps near front Main entrance of school building and child enters/leaves site through the gate - dogs on lead are only allowed use of the pavement from the main road entrance gate to the bottom of the steps and must wait at bottom of steps leading to the pedestrian gate



Animals being carried are not allowed on site and the previous paragraph applies as to delivery/collection of a pupil.

This precludes animals brought on to the site as part of School Curriculum and/or Service support animals; such animals will be under the control of the trainers/owner in charge of this provision, with prior notice of visit being given and a Risk Assessment will have been completed by St Mary's personnel.