

DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

INCLUDING EYFS AND BOARDING

Governors' Committee normally reviewing:	Senior Leadership Team
Date last formally approved:	Spring Term 2023
Date policy became effective:	Spring Term 2023

Period of Review:	Two yearly
Next Review Date:	Spring term 2025

Person responsible for implementation and monitoring:	Bursar
Other relevant policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Safety Policy• Site Security Policy

The following Policy encompasses the Aims and Ethos of the Preparatory School and the Senior School

[Aims and Ethos](#)

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Felsted is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all pupils and a 'culture of vigilance' to safeguard and protect all in its care, and to all aspects of its 'Safeguarding (Child Protection and Staff Behaviour) Policy'.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The aims of the School and the principles of excellent pastoral care will be applied to all children irrespective of their race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy or maternity; equally these characteristics will be recognised and respected, and the School will aim to provide a positive culture of tolerance, equality and mutual respect.

Dogs at School Policy

1. Aims

- To allow staff and visitors to bring their dogs onto the school site when appropriate, while ensuring the safety of all site users.
- To ensure owners bringing dogs onto the school site are fully aware of their responsibilities.

2. Scope

- This policy applies to all persons whilst on the school site.
- This policy does not apply to assistance animals. In accordance with the Equality Act, reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate any assistance animals (for example guide dogs or hearing dogs).
- The term “school site” in this policy includes all outdoor areas and buildings within the school grounds, at the Senior and Prep School.
- The term “owner” in this policy applies to any person bringing a dog onto the school site, whether that dog is their personal property or not.

3. Legislation

- There is no specific legislation relating to the keeping or bringing of pet animals into the workplace, although the Health and Safety at Work Act does require the employer to ensure the safety, health and welfare, so far as is reasonably practicable, of its personnel and others.

4. Objections

- All site users have the right to state their objection (e.g. an allergy, phobia or religious grounds) to an animal’s presence in the area where they work or have cause to visit on a regular basis.

5. Staff

- Prior to bringing a dog to reside onto the school site, the member of staff must:
 - Have written permission from the Head.
 - Confirm that they have read, understood and will abide by this policy.
 - Confirm that their dog has no history of aggressive behaviour.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in the permission to bring a dog onto the school site being withdrawn.

6. Dogs in Boarding/Day Houses

- Whilst the School recognises and appreciates the positive role dogs can play in the homely atmosphere in Houses as well as the attributes and values of pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that for some individuals contact with dogs can be stressful, or even frightening. Therefore:
 - HMs/Houseparents are required to check that all pupils are comfortable in the presence of dogs before the dogs are allowed in areas outside of the staff accommodation;
 - Dogs must not go into bedsits, study rooms or the pupils’ kitchen areas;

- Dogs must not be left unattended within the House at any time;
- Any dog within the boarding house must be kept well away from any pupils who have any allergy to dogs;
- Dogs must be removed if they become a distraction or if any child feels uneasy in the close proximity of the dog.
- Owners are responsible for the safety and welfare of their dog at all times, including during emergency evacuations. Owners must ensure that their dog does not present a hazard to others during an emergency evacuation.

7. Parents and Visitors

Parents and visitors may bring their dog on to the school site subject to the requirements below (section 8).

8. Requirements for dogs on the school site

- Owners are responsible for the control and supervision of their dogs at all times¹.
- Dogs are not allowed in **any** buildings on the school site, with the exception of residences for staff that live on site and have received the required permission (section 5 and 6), unless specific permission has been received.
- Dogs are not permitted on the playground areas of Stewart House.
- As a general principle, in outdoor areas of the school site, dogs should be kept at a distance from areas being used either by the school population, or used by external parties authorised to do so. Dogs may be walked on a lead around the circumference of the fields/other areas when they are in use as long as they are kept away from those using the fields/area.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times on the school site.
- Owners must take measures to prevent dog fights and dogs biting or attacking people or other animals.
- Owners must take measures to ensure their dog does not cause an accident or create slip or trip hazards.
- Owners are responsible for cleaning up their dog's waste immediately, and disposing of it in a clean and hygienic fashion. Dog waste bins are provided around the site.
- Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought onto the school site.

9. Stray/Unsupervised Dogs

Any stray/unsupervised dogs on the school site should be reported to a member of the Estates Team immediately.

¹ Persons bringing animals onto the school site may be held liable for any injury to staff, pupils or visitors, or damage caused to the grounds, premises, facilities or furnishings by their dog; therefore appropriate third party insurance cover is recommended.