

## Landewednack Community Primary School

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11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Policy on Dogs on School Grounds

Governors and staff recognise that dogs 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 to and from school. In our teaching we promote the relationship between people and their pets and accept and encourage the idea of pets as 'family members'. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

We welcome Asha, our reading dog to school as well as 'visiting animals' which hold great educational value; these follow our 'animals in school' policy and risk assessments.

However, we have received much feedback from parents and carers, indicating that some are finding the presence of dogs in the playground stressful, even frightening, particularly for younger children; some have expressed the opinion that a school playground is not an appropriate place for dogs and are concerned about the number of dogs coming in to school.

We are concerned that even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in busy, noisy and crowded school environments and that this can lead to dogs snapping at each other. Children can also behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs or when in contact with dogs and this can potentially lead to a child being bitten.

Governors, staff and parents also have health and safety concerns about dog fouling, particularly on the school field but we recognise that this is a separate issue; parents bringing dogs into the school grounds have behaved responsibly and there is no suggestion that these dogs have left mess behind.

Therefore the Governing Body has agreed that with effect from the beginning of the second half of the autumn term 2022, it is now policy that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of Landewednack Primary School at any time (unless used as an aid to visual impairment or disability). We also kindly request that dogs are not tied up and left unattended at the school gates.

Thank you for your help.

*Louise Jones*

