



**ST BERNARD'S  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT**

**ANIMALS ON SITE POLICY**

**ADVENT 2018**

# St Bernard's Preparatory School

## ANIMALS ON SITE POLICY

### Mission Statement

**With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.**

**St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.**

### INTRODUCTION

- The safety and welfare of everyone on site is paramount.
- Whereas most dogs and other animals are generally safe, no animal can be trusted completely in every situation.
- Most children enjoy the company of dogs and other pet animals, but dog owners should recognise that a minority of pupils may be dog-phobic, and for others, dogs may be an allergy trigger.
- Children require instruction in personal hygiene when animals are on site. Children in the EYFS should only be allowed to touch animals under supervision and when they do, staff must ensure that they wash their hands immediately afterwards.
- The school has a duty to promote the welfare of animals, including dogs that may come on site for specific purposes e.g. guide dogs.

### Staff and Visitors' Animals On Site

- Staff **shall not** bring or keep a dog (except for guide dogs) or other animals on the school site without the knowledge of the Headteacher, or in his absence the Assistant Headteacher s. Dogs shall, at all times, be kept on a lead when they are in the vicinity of the site.
- When a dog belonging to a member of staff or other visitor is given permission to be on the school site, the owner shall carry a poop-scoop, or similar, and clear up any dog faeces completely.
- Staff and other visitors shall make every effort to toilet-train their dog so it does not use the school site
- Staff or other visitors or members of the public will not walk their dog on the school site.
- Staff or other visitors will never take their dog into the school building without permission from the Headteacher and must never enter the Medical Room or catering areas.
- Staff members or other visitors shall ensure that their dog is under their control at all times, **should** permission

*St. Bernard's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.*

have been given for it to be on site.

### **Class Pets**

St Bernard's Preparatory School Early Years Department recognises that caring for pets is beneficial for children's learning. As such, classes may keep a caged pet (such as a hamster, fish, snail etc.) with the knowledge of the Headteacher. We believe that caring for a class pet promotes responsibility and a caring attitude in children. However, children should not touch class pets, and should not be left unsupervised with the pet. They should also wash their hands after touching any part of the cage or pet equipment.

### **Educational Visits**

Part of pupils' learning in the EYFS involves gaining a knowledge and understanding of the world around them. As such, animals may be brought into school for Educational visits, such as the 'Mobile Farm', or the 'Living Eggs' chicks. We believe that this enhances children's enjoyment and provides a valuable learning experience. However, pupils should never be left unsupervised with any animals that have brought into school. Children should all wash their hands thoroughly immediately after handling any animals, and should only touch or handle animals with the supervision of their educators and the person/s responsible for the educational visit.

### **Pupils**

Pupils shall be reminded to wash their hands after each contact with animals. Pupils shall be introduced to the enjoyment and care of animals as well as the hygiene issues as part of their general curriculum. They should only handle animals under the direct supervision of staff, who will ensure that the children wash their hands thoroughly immediately afterwards.

### **Parents**

Parents are not permitted to bring their dogs into the school, or the school site and are asked to keep them on a lead at all times in the vicinity of the school and to avoid any contact between their dog and children other than their own. They are asked not to take their dogs into any school buildings or play areas.

### **Responsible Person**

The Headteacher, supported by the Health & Safety Officer, shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy, or in his absence the Assistant Headteachers. If at any time the Health & Safety Officer considers the presence of a dog conflicts with the safety of the pupils or the interests of the school, permission for the dog to be on site will be withdrawn.

**Applies to:**

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), all staff, peripatetics, clubs and extra-curricular activity providers, volunteers, Trustees, Governors.

**Related policies:**

EYFS, Safeguarding Portfolio, Health and Safety Policy, Premises Management Documents

**Availability**

This Policy is available to parents on the website [www.stbernardsprep.org](http://www.stbernardsprep.org) or a copy can be requested from the school office.

**Monitoring and Review**

The Governors will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Headmaster \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_