

# **St Nicholas Catholic Primary School**



## **Policy 7.23 Dog Policy**

SPR 2020

Review: 3 yearly – Spring 23

**Purpose:** To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the St Nicholas community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

We aim to introduce a policy that is fair to all parties and establishes clear guidelines concerning the presence of dogs in, and close to, the school grounds.

Dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in excited and/or crowded environments, sometimes leading to dog fights. Children too, behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and even dog bites.

The Dog policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the school community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds. To this end, the policy seeks to separate children from dogs in the school ground at the busiest (and noisiest) times, such as the start and end of the school day.

Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement.

- Dogs are not allowed **anywhere** on the school grounds (including the car park) **at any time of day**.
- Dogs cannot be tied-up and/or left unattended at any time, anywhere on the school grounds and including at the school gates.
- The school dog (Alfie), Assistance dogs, seeing eye dogs, customs dogs and police dogs are exempt from these regulations.

A separate policy is in place for the wellbeing and management of the school dog.