



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL AND DAY NURSERIES

DOG POLICY

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 or the Day Nurseries. 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 the children.

Berkhampstead Grounds

Even well-behaved dogs can be unpredictable when placed in busy, noisy and crowded School/Day Nurseries environment. Children can also behave unpredictably when in contact with dogs and this can potentially lead to a child being bitten.

Therefore, the Governing Body has agreed that it is now policy that dogs (except guide dogs) are not allowed on the Berkhampstead grounds at any time. Signs have been up around the outside of the buildings to confirm this.

Governors also kindly request that dogs are not tied up and left unattended at any of the Berkhampstead gates.

Other grounds used by Berkhampstead

Governors and staff appreciate that there will be dogs at other venues used by Berkhampstead, such as the Victoria Ground. Children will be instructed by staff not to approach any dogs (even their own) until they have been dismissed by a member of staff.

Parents are asked to support the School/Day Nurseries by discouraging children from approaching a dog in this situation.

Banned Dog Breeds

In accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements effective from 1st September 2026, banned dog breeds must not be kept or present on nursery premises at any time.

This applies regardless of whether the dog has a Certificate of Exemption.

Berkhampstead School and Day Nurseries does not permit banned dog breeds, including XL Bully type dogs, to be brought onto or kept on any part of the school or nursery site.

Staff, parents, visitors, contractors and other individuals must not bring a banned dog breed onto any part of the school or nursery site, including outdoor areas, car parks or any other areas forming part of the premises.

Where Berkhampstead School and Day Nurseries becomes aware that a banned dog breed is being kept at or brought onto the site, this will be treated as a safeguarding concern and appropriate action will be taken to ensure that children are not exposed to the risk.