

TAUNTON SCHOOL - DOGS ON CAMPUS POLICY

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Taunton School recognises that in some controlled circumstances the presence of dogs on campus can be beneficial to the well-being of pupils, staff and can enhance visitors' experience. However, it must be remembered that this is a school and the welfare of the children, staff and visitors comes before that of a dog. Owners **MUST** be aware that dogs are potentially dangerous; they can be a health hazard and not all children and adults like them. It is also important to realise that pupils from different countries and cultures, may have a much more anxious response to dogs than British pupils.

RULES The following rules must be adhered to and apply both in-term time and in the holiday periods:

1. **WHAT.** Good natured and well behaved dogs may come on to Taunton School campus. Dogs must be clean and have up to date injections.
2. **WHERE.** Dogs are not permitted on the Sports pitch playing areas, designated children's playing areas, or in the school buildings. On most occasions, it is envisioned that dogs will accompany their owners to observe sports events.
3. **RESPONSIBILITY.** Owners are responsible for their dogs at all times, taking particular attention to ensure that; any fouling is cleared up immediately and effectively, dogs remain on leads and do not present a traffic hazard, any pupil interaction with the dog is supervised and doesn't present any anxiety or alarm. Dogs owned by staff should not be present when teaching or specific supervisory duties are being done.
4. **LIABILITY AND INSURANCE.** Dog owners who bring their dog on campus must have valid third party liability insurance, as it is the owner rather than the school who will be liable for any accident for which the dog is responsible. Taunton School staff are entitled to ask for information of insurance policies at any time.
5. **EXCEPTIONS.** Dogs owned by staff residents will live in their residential areas under the terms of their occupancy agreement. Contractors may not bring a dog onto the campus.
6. **EXCLUSIONS.** Taunton School staff retain the right to request that a dog be removed from campus immediately, should it be causing any kind of alarm, and without recourse to lengthy explanations. In these instances owners must remove their dogs without delay. If any staff member observes a rule being flouted, they are to remind dog owners of these policy terms at the first opportunity.

EDUCATIONAL OFF-CAMPUS VISITS There are occasions when the presence of staff dogs on educational off-campus visits; for example while walking on the Quantocks, will enhance the experience for the pupils and staff alike. This is at the discretion of the Visit Leader and the EVC coordinator responsible for approving that risk assessment. In these circumstances sensible provision must be made to transport the dog.

Lee Glaser
Headmaster

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