

KILLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

April 2025

This policy will be monitored and reviewed as necessary.

Signature: C Goan Principal

Signature: L Sproule Chair, Board of Governors

Kids **P**athway to **S**uccess

KPS Ethos statement

We at Killen Primary School believe pupils should have access to a safe, happy, stimulating environment in which they reach their full potential, socially, emotionally and academically. Furthermore, the values of respect, kindness, equality and mutual understanding are the foundations of the school.

KPS Vision

Killen Primary School strives to be a safe, welcoming, child-centred, inclusive school family celebrating success for all. We encourage each child to be confident and develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and respect for others in the community.

KPS Mission statement

Killen Primary School aims to:

- Provide high quality teaching that inspires a love for learning in every child through engaging and challenging experiences
- Meet the individual needs of all learners through differentiation and personalised support
- Create a safe, happy and stimulating learning environment where every child feels valued, respected and included
- Ensure equality of opportunity for all students to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or abilities
- Empower students to become responsible and compassionate citizens who contribute positively to their community
- Support the professional development of staff to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to deliver high quality education.
- Build strong partnerships with parents, families and external agencies to support student learning and well-being
- Operate with a strong set of values that prioritise respect, kindness and inclusivity for all members of the school community

Killen Primary School Core Values

- Respect
- Kindness
- Inclusivity/Equality
- Happiness
- Manners
- Resilience

OVERALL AIM OF THIS POLICY

Our aim is to deal with issues relating to dogs on or around the school grounds. Three key issues to be addressed include:

1. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils;
2. Dogs being brought into the school as an interactive educational activity for pupils; and,
3. Stray dogs on school grounds.

The Education Authority has recommended strongly to schools that dogs are only allowed on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff or members of the public as a registered service dog. The Board of Governors of Killen Primary School has considered this advice and agreed to accept this recommendation.

1. ADVICE TO THOSE BRINGING DOGS TO SCHOOL AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

It is recognised that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and outside the school grounds stressful, even frightening, particularly with younger children. Even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment.

- Please be aware that if approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds to be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the Governors to apply the agreed policy;
- For the safety of the dog, as well as for the benefit of others, do not tie your pet to the school gate /fence and leave it unattended.
- If walking your dog to collect your child / children, please stand away from the entrance points to avoid causing distress to those children who have a fear of dogs.
- If your dog fouls outside the school grounds, please clean this up as it is unpleasant for pedestrians and causes health and safety issues.

2. DOGS BEING BROUGHT IN THE SCHOOL AS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY FOR PUPILS

Schools may wish, from time to time, to bring a dog into the school as part of an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs.

The following guidance will be adhered to.

- A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit.
- The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament.
- The organisation has public liability insurance.
- Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit / how the visit will be carried out.
- The extent of interaction with the pupils and permission slips received.
- Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.
- All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of children.
- Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have.
- Pupils have been informed of the appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in the conjunction with the organisation bringing in the dog and guidance taken from them.
- Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for pupils.

3. STRAY DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

If there is a stray dog in the school grounds, contact will be made with the local Council Dog Warden for advice and to remove the dog from the school grounds. Children will be kept indoors until the dog has been safely removed.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Dogs Trust 'Be Safe Be Kind' Learning about dogs and how to be safe around them. Dog Trust: Be Safe Be Kind Dogs Trust Resources for Teachers

The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

The Management of Health and Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000.

The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and as amended.

EA Mail February 2025 Guidance on bringing Dogs into School

