

The Children's Workshop

NO DOGS ON GROUNDS POLICY

Management and Staff at the Children's Workshop recognise that dogs are an important part of life for some of our families and, as such, are often included in their day-to-day activities. We do see pet ownership as a valuable educational experience for children.

However, we also recognise that some families find the presence of dogs in the vicinity of the Children's Workshop's buildings quite stressful, even frightening. We are concerned that even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when in a busier, noisier, crowded school environment. Children also can behave unpredictably when in the presence of dogs or when in contact with them and this could potentially lead to a child being bitten.

We aim to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff and all other people who come onto the premises. The establishment of a healthy and safe environment is an essential prerequisite for the work of The Children's Workshop. It is also a statutory requirement.

Within the interests of Hygiene, Health & Safety dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) should not be tied up and left unattended **inside** the school gates at any time. Dogs may be left unattended **outside** the gates providing they are tied to the railings next to the Church.

Dogs remain the responsibility of their owners at all times.

The only exception to this policy is where a dog is necessary to provide equity of access and mobility to those members of the community with a disability, e.g. guide dogs.