



**POLICY (Number: Div)
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

DOGS ON CAMPUS POLICY

This policy has been formulated to ensure that the rights of all Somerset House 'family members' are considered and protected. By way of this policy we can control the admission of dogs onto the school campus.

Should family and staff members wish to walk their dogs on the campus, the following arrangements must be adhered to:

- No aggressive dogs are to be brought onto the campus (animals which have demonstrated aggression toward humans and/or animals in the past). In the event of the dog's unprovoked or threatening behaviour the school has the right to arrange the dog's immediate removal from the campus.
- It is important that dogs which are brought onto the school campus must be clean and healthy to minimize the risk of disease transmission to pupils. Because children may contract certain zoonotic diseases due to lack of adequate hand washing and the tendency to put their hands in their mouth, it is important that dogs which are brought to school should be clean (free of fleas / ticks).
- Dogs must be leashed and properly attended to at all times. Because dogs may react strangely to environments where children are present, it is important to have an effective way to control them. Fear may cause an animal to attempt to escape or even act aggressively in situations which are unusual to them. Appropriate restraint devices will allow the holder to react quickly and prevent harm to the pupils or escape of the animal.
- Dogs should not enter classrooms and buildings.
- Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up any messes made by their pet. Children should not be allowed to handle or clean up animal waste (faeces, urine, blood, etc.).
- Dog waste should be disposed of where children cannot come into contact with it, such as in a plastic bag or container with a lid or via the sewage system for faeces.
- Anyone who brings a dog onto the campus assumes full financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.
- Dogs should be determined not be in oestrus ('heat') at the time of their visit.
- Permission for dogs to visit the campus may be reviewed for any special school events or functions (e.g. Fun Day or large sporting events).
- Prohibited areas: dogs are not allowed to defecate or urinate in or near areas where children routinely play or congregate (e.g. sand-pits).
- No visits on Sunday as the campus is closed.