

School Assistance Dog Policy

Last Reviewed: January 2022

APPENDIX 2

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INTRODUCTION

Ken Stimpson School values the diversity of its workforce and students and is committed to providing an environment which is welcoming for all. This policy has been developed to address specific issues relating to assistance dogs on the school campus. It is also intended to raise awareness for staff, students and visitors of the issues relating to assistance dogs.

An assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist individuals with specific needs, these can range from physical, emotional, health, seizures but not inclusive. When the dog is behaving differently it could be they are raising an alert to their owner.

This policy aims to outline:

- The arrangements made to provide a welcoming and safe environment for assistance dogs and their owners
- The roles and responsibilities within the school in relation to assistance dogs
- The responsibility of the owners of assistance dogs on Ken Stimpson School Site
- A process for dealing with issues and complaints if they arise

KEN STIMPSON SCHOOL: ARRANGEMENTS

Ken Stimpson School makes the following arrangements to allow staff, students and visitors with assistance dogs to enjoy the best possible experience:

- Allocated area within the school grounds away from students and staff will be provided for the toilet needs of the assistance dogs
- Water bowls are provided for assistance dogs
- On request, Ken Stimpson School will provide familiarisation with and orientation at Ken Stimpson as part of induction
- Risk assessment will be put in place to manage individual needs
- Guidelines will be issued to students and staff on how to interact with assistance dogs
- Ken Stimpson is happy to listen to the suggestions of assistance dog owners as to how the provision can be improved in school
- Individuals wanting to access the school with an assistance dog, must contact the school in advance and appropriate risk assessment to meet the whole school community must be put in place

THE OWNER: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Is always kept on a lead when walking around the school site
- Uses the designated area to allow the dog to exercise and foul
- Any fouling of the dog is the responsible of the owner and is disposed of appropriately
- In the unlikely event the dog fouls outside of the designated area this is reported immediately so the area can be cleaned and sanitised
- Must report any concerns to the School Business Manager
- The owner and the dog behave in an appropriate way that does not disrupt others and their learning in school
- If requiring any assistance during the day, in the first instance to report to the student support officer or the School Business Manager

STAFF AND STUDENTS

- Students and staff should talk to the handler not the dog, as the dog is working, and this can be distracting for the dog
- Students and Staff should not pet or praise the dog without asking first
- Do not try and feed the dog treats – service dogs are on strict diets
- If a student or member of staff has any concerns, they should raise these with the School Business Manager in the first instance

COMPLAINTS BY ASSISTANCE DOGS' OWNERS

If a student, member of staff or visitor with an assistance dog wishes to make a complaint about the treatment of themselves or their dog, they should raise this issue in the first instance, with their student support officer, Line manager, or the school business manager.

Every attempt will be made to resolve the matter informally with the dog's owner, including where appropriate the use of mediation. If the request to resolve the complaint is not complied with, the issue can be escalated through the schools complaint procedure.