Hordle CE (VA) Primary School & Nursery

DOGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES - SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Any reference to 'the school' throughout this policy shall mean Hordle CE (VA) Primary School and Nursery.

Date of statement: September 2026

Review date: September 2027.

Purpose

This statement confirms the arrangements in place at Hordle Primary School and Nursery to ensure that children attending the school and nursery are protected from risks associated with dogs on the school premises.

The school recognises its responsibility to provide a safe environment for all children and has considered the strengthened safeguarding requirements within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework, which came into effect on 1 September 2026.

The updated EYFS requirements prohibit the provision of registered childcare from premises where a banned dog breed is kept or is present. Banned dog breeds are those to which Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 applies, including the XL Bully type.

School Policy – No Dogs on the School Site

As an additional safeguarding measure, **Hordle Primary School and Nursery operates a strict "No Dogs on School Premises" rule**, with the exception of the designated dog park and the adjacent driveway area provided for dog owners.

Dogs are **not permitted** in any of the main school or nursery areas, including:

- school buildings;
- nursery areas;
- playgrounds and outdoor learning areas;
- school fields and other outdoor areas;
- entrances and pathways used by children;
- areas being used by children as part of school or nursery activities.

This applies to dogs belonging to staff, parents, carers, visitors, contractors and members of the public.

Dogs may only be present within the designated dog park and the adjacent driveway area. Dogs must not be brought beyond these designated areas or into any part of the school premises used by children.

The school's position is that **no dog, regardless of breed or size, should enter or remain in the main school or nursery areas**, except where specifically permitted within the designated dog park area.

Banned Dog Breeds

In accordance with the EYFS requirements, the school will take appropriate steps to ensure that a banned dog breed is not present on the premises where School-Based Nursery childcare is being provided.

The school recognises that the statutory requirement relating to banned dog breeds applies regardless of whether the dog is being brought onto the premises for a short period or is otherwise present.

Any concern that a banned dog breed may be present on the school site will be treated as a safeguarding and health and safety matter and addressed promptly by the Headteacher or an appropriate member of the senior leadership team.

Educational Visits and Trips

Where Early Years children are involved in an educational visit, trip or activity away from the school site, the relevant risk assessment will consider the potential presence of dogs.

As part of the trip planning and risk assessment process, staff will establish, so far as reasonably practicable, whether dogs are permitted at the venue and whether there are arrangements in place to prevent banned dog breeds being present where the children will be receiving childcare or participating in the planned activity.

Where necessary, staff will contact the venue in advance to clarify its arrangements regarding dogs. The risk assessment will also consider the general risks posed by dogs and appropriate measures will be put in place to safeguard children. This may include avoiding areas where dogs are present, ensuring appropriate supervision and following the venue's safeguarding arrangements.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff working with children are expected to:

1. Follow the school's No Dogs on School Site rule.
2. Report immediately to the Headteacher or designated senior member of staff if a dog is brought onto the school premises.
3. Immediately report any concern that a banned dog breed may be present.
4. Follow the relevant risk assessment and safeguarding procedures during educational visits and trips.
5. Remain vigilant to potential risks from dogs when supervising children.
6. Ensure that any concerns are recorded and managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding and health and safety procedures.

Review

This statement will be reviewed alongside the school's safeguarding, health and safety and educational visits arrangements, and whenever there is a relevant change to statutory requirements or guidance.

This statement should be retained with the school safeguarding and compliance documentation as evidence of the school's arrangements for managing the risks associated with dogs and its implementation of the strengthened EYFS safeguarding requirements from 1 September 2026.

Headteacher Declaration

I confirm that I have reviewed this statement and that the arrangements described above reflect the school's current policy and practice.

Headteacher name: LOUISE TRIM.

Signature: [signature]

Date: 12.10.26

Review date: 01.09.27

Nursery / Early Years Lead Confirmation

I confirm that the Early Years staff are aware of and understand the requirements set out in this statement and that the relevant arrangements will be incorporated into educational visit and trip risk assessments where appropriate.

Name: NATALIE RILEY

Role: EY Leader

Signature: [signature]

Date: 8/10/26