

Holy Spirit BNS Animal Policy

June 2023

INTRODUCTION

Holy Spirit BNS, Ballymun is part of a community where the benefits of pet/animal ownership are valued. The school's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children have a fear of animals and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds.

This policy outlines the responsibilities of animal owners and/or handlers within the school grounds.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. While the school appreciates and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that other children and adults can find contact with animals stressful.
2. Animals can behave unpredictably when excited and this can lead to accidents such as falls and bites.
3. This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
4. Staff, students and visitors may suffer allergic reactions to animals while in the school.
5. The school staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The School is concerned with the safety of students, parents, staff and visitors at Holy Spirit BNS. It is for the reasons outlined above that the school has decided that animals are not permitted to be on school grounds.

- Where community members or staff wish to bring a pet into the school for a particular event, prior permission of the principal is required. The animal must be kept under control at all times and the owner should act responsibly.
- Fully certified service animals must be under adult control at all times on school grounds. The animal owner should be able to produce certification on request.

RATIFICATION AND REVIEW

- This plan was formally ratified by the Board of management on June 20th 2023.