

DEWHURST ST MARY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher:
Mrs Sue Wilcox



Deputy Headteacher:
Miss Natalie Ranson

20th June 2017

Dear Resident,

It has been brought to my notice by neighbours of our school that persons have been using the school field and in some cases to exercise their dogs.

It is the responsibility of the Governing Board to ensure the safety of children, staff and visitors to the site, for that reason we have adopted a policy where dogs are not permitted on the school site unless they are an assistance or guide dog.

Where dogs are being exercised or routinely brought onto school property this can introduce some potential risks to pupils and staff.

Schools are a private property, thus persons entering without permission or lawful authority to be there may be treated as trespassers.

Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 states,

(1) Any person who without lawful authority is present on premises to which this section applies and causes or permits nuisance or disturbance to the annoyance of persons who lawfully use those premises (whether or not any such persons are present at the time) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(2) This section applies to premises, including playgrounds, playing fields and other premises for outdoor recreation, of any school maintained by Hertford County Council.

Nuisance or disturbance has a wide interpretation, for example to exercise a dog or allow a dog to foul a playing field is to permit a nuisance and thus schools could consider taking legal action in such cases under Section 547.

Under this Act trespassers can be removed by a police officer or anyone authorised by the Local Authority provided there is reasonable cause to suspect that the person in question is committing or has committed an offence under the Section.

Our Headteacher uses her discretion in determining whether they, or other staff, can safely challenge / escort a trespasser from the site.

I am writing to ask that if you see or recognise anyone using our school field to report them either to our Headteacher or to the police, as these persons are trespassing.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Robinson

Chris Robinson
Chair of Governors.
Dewhurst St. Mary C of E Primary School.