



ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

DOG POLICY

Date Policy Ratified by Governing Body: 20 May 2026

Responsible Committee: Finance and General Purposes Committee

Date to be reviewed by: 20 May 2028

Policy on dogs in College

This policy applies to all employees, students, other members, visitors, and commercial guests on the College site. Its scope is all College buildings; the gardens; and any other space within the perimeter fence.

The College is mindful of the need to balance the needs of multiple users of its site, including those who are allergic to or afraid of dogs. It also notes that in practical terms the site includes different types of space:

- the gardens and grounds, which are outdoor spaces sharing many of the characteristics of a park, and which are already home to a range of wildlife;
- student accommodation;
- Fellows' accommodation;
- high-traffic multi-use areas (the Main Building; MGA) with a regular flow of students, staff, visitors, and Fellows along corridors and in/out of shared offices;
- low-traffic multi-use areas (e.g. the outlying houses) with a relatively low footfall and with separate private offices.

The following rules apply across the site:

1. Registered assistance animals are permitted the same access to the College site as their owners, in line with the law and good practice.
2. Except where #1 applies, students, commercial guests, and visitors to College are not permitted to bring dogs onto the site.
3. Fellows and employees are generally permitted to bring dogs onto the site under the following circumstances:
 - a. Dogs may be brought into individual offices in the outlying buildings (i.e. buildings excluding Main Building, MGA, and any building that is solely student accommodation).
 - b. Dogs may not be brought into the Main Building or MGA for any material length of time, but Fellows or employees bringing dogs onto the site may bring them through these areas in transit.
 - c. Resident fellows may keep dogs in their accommodation.
 - d. Except where #1 applies, dogs may not be brought into student accommodation areas.
 - e. Except where #1 applies, dogs are not permitted in any food service area, nor in the Library.
4. Dogs must be kept on a lead except in private (non-shared) offices and in residential accommodation.
5. Anyone bringing an animal onto the College site is responsible for keeping it under control at all times. Any dog not under control may, if necessary, be banned from the College site.

Members of College are reminded that it is a summary offence under Section 10(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to allow any dog to be dangerously out of control.

6. Anyone with a concern about the behaviour of a dog on the College site should raise it with the owner in the first instance if they feel comfortable and it is safe to do so. Failing this, they should raise the matter with their manager; the Head of HR; any College Officer; or with the Principal directly, any of whom can advise on next steps. Where there is a *prima facie* concern, the Principal (or the Vice-Principal, if there is a concern about the behaviour of a dog belonging to the Principal) will consider whether it is necessary to exclude it from the College site either temporarily or permanently.
7. In an emergency, any College Officer; the Porter on duty; or any manager may require a dog to leave the site as a temporary measure. Any temporary exclusion will be reviewed by the Principal or Vice Principal at the earliest reasonable opportunity.
8. Failure to comply with a requirement to remove a dog from the site or to keep it on a lead can constitute a breach of discipline and may give rise to disciplinary action.
9. Except where #1 applies, the ability to bring dogs onto the site is a permission rather than a right, and may be withdrawn or modified as necessary from time to time.
10. This policy was approved by Governing Body on [date] and will take effect from [date].
11. This policy will be kept under review.