

Community Pre-schools Policy and Procedure: Banned Dog Breeds at Drop-off and Collection

This policy explains how Community Pre-schools will manage situations where any dogs including banned dog breed, including an XL Bully type, is brought to or near the pre-school when a child is being dropped off or collected. The safety of children, families, staff and visitors is our priority. **This policy applies to all parents, carers, authorised collectors, staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors attending the pre-school site, entrance areas, , car parks and any area used for drop-off or collection.**

Legal and safeguarding context

In England and Wales, it is a criminal offence to own or possess an XL Bully dog without a valid Certificate of Exemption. Exempted banned breed dogs must be kept on a lead and muzzled in public places, and the lead must be held securely by someone aged 16 or over. New child-safety measures also strengthen supervision expectations around banned dog breeds.

From 1 September 2026, subject to the legislative process and statutory framework changes, registered childcare is expected not to be provided from premises where a banned dog breed is present or kept. Community Pre-schools will therefore take a precautionary safeguarding approach and will not allow banned dog breeds onto the pre-school premises or into areas used by children and families for arrival and collection.

Policy statement

Parents, carers and authorised collectors **must not bring any dog breeds**, including XL Bully types, onto the pre-school premises or into drop-off and collection areas. This applies even where the dog has a Certificate of Exemption, is on a lead, is muzzled, or is considered familiar with children.

If a parent, carer or authorised collector arrives with a banned dog breed, staff will not release the child until safe alternative arrangements are in place. The adult must move the dog away from the pre-school premises and collection area before collection can continue.

Procedure if a banned dog breed is brought to collection

1. Staff will keep children inside the setting or in a safe supervised area.
2. Staff will calmly ask the adult to move the dog away from the premises, entrance, playground, car park or collection area.
3. The child will not be released while the dog remains in or near the collection area.
4. The adult may arrange for another authorised collector to collect the child, provided that person is already named on the child's collection permissions or their identity can be verified in line with our collection procedure.
5. If the adult refuses to move the dog, behaves aggressively, or staff believe there is an immediate risk, staff may contact the police and follow safeguarding procedures.
6. The incident will be recorded, including the date, time, people involved, actions taken and any follow-up required.

Expectations for parents, carers and authorised collectors

- Please do not bring any banned dog breed to the pre-school site, entrance, car park or collection area.
- Please make alternative arrangements if you need to walk a dog at the same time as collecting or dropping off a child.
- Please ensure all authorised collectors are aware of this policy.
- Please follow staff instructions immediately if a safety concern is raised.
- Please speak to the pre-school manager in advance if you are unsure whether this policy may affect your collection arrangements.

Assistance dogs

Registered assistance dogs that are not banned dog breeds will be managed sensitively and individually through risk assessment. If an assistance dog is believed to be a banned breed or banned breed type, the pre-school manager will seek advice and complete a specific safeguarding risk assessment before any access is agreed.

Communication with families

This policy will be shared with parents, carers and authorised collectors. Families will be reminded that the rule is in place to protect all children and adults at the setting and to support compliance with safeguarding and legal responsibilities.