



## JPAC Ltd – Dogs in Club Premises

This policy has been introduced because of information received from Local Authorities and due to recent unfortunate cases of child fatality.

As our Out of School Clubs are based in schools it is generally the policy that dogs are NOT allowed on school premises unless they are Guide Dogs or Assistance Dogs. As a Company, we obviously comply with this policy. However, it is important to be aware of the dangers which do exist for young/vulnerable children with relation to dogs.

PLEASE READ THE ADVICE BELOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM DERBYSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD.

1. It is important not to frighten children with regards to dogs as many of them may have a pet dog or know a dog within their extended family BUT.....
2. Children need to be reminded that not all dogs are friendly and they should not stroke or approach a dog unless it is being supervised by an adult owner. If they wish to stroke the dog they should ask for the owner's permission.
3. Children should not scream or shout at dogs as this can provoke a frightened aggressive reaction. Equally they should not run around a dog.
4. If a dog approaches them and they are frightened they should stand still and turn their back on the dog. Remain calm and slowly walk away. They SHOULD NOT scream or shout.

For staff, it is important to remember that there are dangerous dogs for a variety of reasons but the main principle to adhere to is:

'The most important advice identified by the Rapid Review is to **never leave a baby or young child unsupervised with a dog, even for a moment, no matter how well you know that dog.** This message is relevant to any contact with dogs, including when the child is in the care of others.' (Refer to document from Derbyshire LA)