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**Free Rangers Dog Policy**

**Reviewed February 2021**

Free Rangers Forest Schools ltd is based in a farmyard setting and sits directly next to a public cycle track, for this reason dogs are a feature of the setting. Many of the local dog walkers and dogs are known to the nursery and the majority are considered safe and are of a friendly nature.

Free Rangers Forest Schools ltd recognises that no dog is completely trustworthy and therefore ensures the safety of the children, families, and staff in the following ways:

On site

All dogs on site are the responsibilities of their owners and must always kept on a lead; staff will remind owners of this should they see a dog on site that is not on its lead.

The nursery owners ensure that the nursery grounds are known to be private property and therefore are not an open footpath for dog walkers

Children attending the nursery are made aware that they should not approach or touch any dog on site unless they are told it is safe to do so by the adults they are with.

There are individual risk assessments in place for Bramble and Juno who are the dogs of staff members on site , Bramble is the responsibility of Charlotte Lucas and Juno of Ed Harding

Off site

When going on an outing staff carry out a risk assessment, which will involve what to do when coming into contact with dogs.

Children are told not to touch or call dogs to them.

If a dog/dogs looks unfriendly staff will ask children to turn away from the dog with their arms crossed.

Children are told not to run to or from a dog.

When passing dogs on the cycle track staff keep children close and to one side of the path.

Any incidents involving a dog or dog owner are reported to the local dog warden on **Tel: 01225 39 40 41**

Where the outcome of this is not satisfactory the police will be involved

This policy was adopted by Free Rangers on 10th November 2015, Jan 2017 ,Sept 2018 and February 2021

Signed:

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