



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Executive Headteacher: Mrs K Houston
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R Stender
Operations Manager: Mrs G Ritchie
Rock Road
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Monday 21st September 2026

Important Update: Dogs on School Grounds

Dear Thakeham families,

We know that for many of our families, walking the dog is a wonderful part of the morning and afternoon school run. However, due to a recent review of our health and safety procedures, we must write to inform everyone that **dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the school gates and entrance paths.**

- **Exceptions:** This policy does not apply to registered assistance or guide dogs.

Why We Are Asking for Your Help

We understand that this may require a change in routine for those of you who currently bring your dogs to the gate. We have made this decision to ensure the comfort and safety of everyone in our school community, especially regarding:

- **Crowded Spaces:** The areas around our school gates become incredibly busy at drop-off and pick-up times. Even the gentlest and most well-trained dogs can become overwhelmed or startled by sudden noises and crowds.
- **Anxiety and Fear:** A few of our pupils (and some adults) have a severe fear of dogs or have allergies. When dogs are near the school gate, it can make entering the school a stressful experience for them.
- **Keeping Gateways Clear:** For safety and emergency access, we need to keep the paths leading directly to the school gates completely clear and free flowing.

How We Can Work Together

If you wish to continue walking your dog during the school run, we kindly ask that you do not enter the school grounds and remain at the entrance to the carpark, underneath the tree so that you can watch your child walk safely on the path and enter the school gate. Please see below photo:

Courage • Ambition



Respect • Enjoyment



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Please be aware that if you leave your dog unattended outside of the school grounds, you do so at your own risk.

Thank you so much for your understanding, cooperation, and support in keeping our school entrance safe and welcoming for all children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'kthouston'.

Mrs K Houston
Executive Headteacher

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