



Ebrington Primary & Nursery School

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Principal: Mr B F Guthrie, BA Hons ED PQH

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Having just walked all the pathways on the school site, I am both dismayed and alarmed to see dog fouling evident-two examples would appear to be very fresh, this morning.

Whilst it is great to see more active travel to school, which brings with it the opportunity to walk the family dog, it is alarming to think we have parents coming on to the school site who feel it is acceptable to allow their dog to foul pathways and leave it for someone else to clean up.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.

There is a joint school policy, Ebrington PS & NU and Foyle College, on bringing dogs onto site. This can be found on the website under 'Policies' section. It clearly states '**The adult bringing the dog on site is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site any soiling by their dog on the school grounds and failure to do so will mean the dog will no longer be allowed in the school grounds (N.B. dog waste must not be put into the school bins);'**

Our school site and pathways are covered by CCTV surveillance. I would not want to have to start reviewing these at key school pick up times to catch the 'culprits'. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse. I would ask you all to be responsible pet owners and ensure you have a bag to lift any fouling from your dog and to take it off site with you and put in a public bin. If this continues, school governors will review the policy, which may lead to no dogs being allowed on site. It would seem a shame that a small number of irresponsible owners spoil it for the rest.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Guthrie