

Advice to dog owners after small children were spooked at The Beeches Playing Field

We're asking dog owners to keep their pet under control while in busy places such as parks or playing fields after a dog spooked two small children this morning (Friday 6 October).

It is understood that the dog, which was not on a lead, had ran up to the children before jumping up, covering them in mud and making biting gestures.

This took place at The Beeches Playing Field in Charlton Kings and fortunately the children weren't injured or bitten by the dog.

Local residents have informed us that incidents of this nature are common, and officers want to ensure that dog owners are aware of their responsibilities as it's an offence to let a dog be dangerously out of control - whether that's in public or private.

A dog is considered to be out of control if it injures or makes someone worried that it might injure them.

Taking measures to keep your dog under control reduces the chances of them running off and scaring or potentially attacking someone and helps to keep everyone in the area safe.

The Blue Cross has a number of helpful tips for walking your dog both on and off lead which can be found here: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/behaviour-and-training/walking-your-dog-tips-for-walking-on-lead-and-off-lead>

You can also find out more about dog laws here: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/wellbeing-and-care/dog-laws-uk>