



# DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

## POLICY

### Assistance Dogs

Orchard Grove Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (eg seeing eye dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Orchard Grove Primary School will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the school Principal.

### Pet Dogs

Orchard Grove Primary School is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Orchard Grove Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

## **GUIDELINES**

- Dogs are prohibited within the school boundaries between the hours of 7.00am to 6.00pm during normal school operating days.
- The prohibited school boundaries are from the most northern boundary (residential fence line behind the portables) to the most southern side of the school oval (fence line) and from the eastern service road of the Wal Wicking Hall to the entrance gates on Orchard Grove inclusive of the western boundary of the school oval and all areas contained therein.
- The School or School Council will contact local law officers to remove dogs from school grounds if dogs are within the school boundaries and not under effective control between the hours of 7.00am to 6.00pm during normal school operating days.
- Specific “No Dogs” signage will be displayed prominently within the school boundaries at various locations.
- Dog owners are reminded of their obligation to clean up after their dogs in compliance with Local Laws.
- Dog owners may, within the context of local laws, bring dogs within the school boundaries prior to 7.00am and after 6.00pm during normal school operating days.

The principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

### **Stray Dogs**

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

The following school policies are also relevant to this Dogs Policy:

- Duty of Care Policy
- Visitors Policy

### **Review Cycle And Evaluation**

last updated on April 2021

scheduled for review in April 2024