



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

Alphington 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 lawfully can 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. The 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 Principal.

Pet dogs

Alphington 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 we understand that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds:

- Pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult.
- Aggressive dogs (to humans and other dogs) are not to be brought to the school grounds. This includes nervous dogs and fear biters.
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.
- Pet dogs are to be kept away from high traffic areas and school entrances.
- Parents/carers with dogs should remain on the turf area during assemblies or when there are large groups congregating.
- Dogs are not permitted on grounds during major school community events including the annual fair, the art show, picnics and working bees.
- Dogs are not to be secured to gates or barriers near the entrances to the school or high traffic areas or left unattended.
- Dogs cannot be taken into school buildings.

- A dog education program is to be implemented for junior school students.
- The local Council will be notified if there is an incident with a dog on the school premises.
- Any faeces deposited by a dog on school grounds are to be immediately removed from the school grounds by the dog owner as per local by laws.
- The Principal will have absolute discretion as to whether any dog is to be banned from the school.

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.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Please refer also to the school's *Duty of Care* and *Visitors to the School Policies*.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy, first developed in this format in April 2019, will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (currently no specific DET A-Z Index reference). The template was dated February 2018.

This update was ratified by School Council June 2019

Reference:
Nil