

Dogs at Woodville Primary 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

Woodville 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 (e.g. 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. Woodville Primary School will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance dog 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

Woodville 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 Woodville 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. Dogs must be tethered at least 5 metres from any school gate.

Should a student wish to bring a pet dog to school to 'show' to fellow students during a scheduled class session a request must be made to the principal by either the parent/guardian of the child or the classroom teacher. The dog must be brought to school by a responsible adult and taken home immediately after the session is finished. Dogs are not to be taken, or kept in school grounds except to walk to and from the gates.

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

See also: [Duty of Care Policy](#)
[Visitors to School Policy](#) on the school website

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

*This policy was last presented to School Council in **July 2018***