
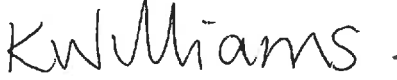
	Hughesdale Primary School	
	Dogs at School Policy	
Ratified at school Council: August 2022	Due for Review: August 2025	On Website; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Authority (Principal):  <small>Digitally signed by Lisa Gough Date: 2022.09.03 09:45:53 +10'00'</small>		Authority (School Council President): 



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Bridene Forrest (Business Manager) or Amanda Breeden-Walton (Assistant Principal).

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Definitions

An **assistance dog** is trained and certified by a registered organisation to perform tasks or functions that help a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A **stray dog** is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

Assistance dogs

Hughesdale 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 dog' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance dogs are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school Principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that a dog:

- 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 dog to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Hughesdale 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

Hughesdale 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 Hughesdale 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, we expect all families to abide the following rules 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.
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds, on the fence perimeter or left unaccompanied.
- families that bring dogs onto school grounds that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.
- families that bring dogs onto school grounds are responsible for cleaning up after their pet.

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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Made available upon request to the front office

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

[School policies:](#)

- Duty of Care
- Visitors

POLICY REVIEW

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Next scheduled review date	August 2025
Review Cycle	This policy will be reviewed every 3 - 4 years.