

Dogs in the school ground

Background

Huntingdale Primary School understands that many families in our community keep dogs as pets. However, we need to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone.

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



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office

Purpose

To:

- Explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.
- Maintain the DET values of accountability, leadership, respect, integrity, impartiality, responsiveness and human rights.

Implementation

- The principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.

Pet dogs

- 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.
- Pet dogs are prohibited from 6.30am-6.30pm during the hours that the school is open for service (this includes Team Kids)
- We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home.

Dogs for Educational Purposes

- There are some circumstances where animals and more specifically dogs can be used for educational purposes.
- Please refer to the *Use of Animals in Schools Policy*



Assistance Dogs

- Huntingdale 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.
- The 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.
- Huntingdale 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 office.

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.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Document Status

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
Principal- May 2022 Education & Future Directions 3 May	N/A	May 2025