



# 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.

Camberwell South Primary School is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The school's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children may have a fear of dogs, dogs can be unpredictable in unfamiliar environments and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds. This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners within the school grounds.

## POLICY

### Assistance dogs

Camberwell South 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 to 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. Camberwell South 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 Principal.

### Pet dogs

Camberwell South 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 Camberwell South Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, we recognise that our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. 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 are only permitted on the grassed area in front of the office building on Peate Ave
- pet dogs must not be tied up or left unaccompanied, either on school grounds or the 2 minute parking zone along Peate Ave
- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- families that bring pet dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.

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

If a member of the school community wishes to bring a pet dog to school for reasons such as “show and tell” or an external provider is engaged to help learning activity in relation to dogs, the classroom teacher will seek permission from the Principal or the Assistant Principal.

These rules apply between 7:30am and 6:30pm on school days <sup>1</sup>, and outside of these hours during school events where students and/or families will be present e.g. Working Bees, Picnics, Concerts, Open Nights etc.

### **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**

- [Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [Visitors, Volunteers and External Education Program Providers Policy](#)

### **REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION**

This policy was last updated in June 2021 and is scheduled for review in June 2024.

Department of Education Policy Requirements	
Optional	Approval by School Council not required
Type	Operational

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<sup>1</sup> Due to OSHC operating during these hours

June 2021

Need for School Council Approval	No
Need for Ed Committee consultation	Yes
Review Cycle	3-4 Years
Made Publically Available	YES