

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

POLICY

Ripponlea Primary School (RPS) seeks to ensure the safety of all students, staff, parents and visitors to RPS, through both direct and indirect contact with animals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide for the safety of students, staff, parents and visitors at RPS;
- ensure access to the school grounds for people with a disability requiring the use of dogs.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Animals are not permitted within the RPS grounds or within RPS school buildings at any time, unless prior approval has been obtained by the Principal, and:
 - the animal is for educational purposes; or
 - a dog that assists a person with a disability.
- If approval is given for an animal to be on RPS grounds or within a school building, the pet owner must:
 - accompany the animal and ensure that it remains under their control at all times (a dog must be on a leash); and
 - be responsible for the animal at all times whilst the animal is on RPS grounds or within a school building.
- If dog owners choose to tie their dog up outside the RPS grounds, they are entirely responsible for the dog's behaviour and for cleaning up any mess left by the dog.
- RPS promotes and supports the [Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary Schools](#) to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed for responsible pet ownership and animal care.
- The use of animals as part of teaching at RPS will comply with the requirements of the Department of Education and Training policy on the [Care and Use of Animals in Victorian Schools](#).

RELATED POLICIES

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Playground Supervision
- Visitors to the School
- Duty of Care

Ratified by School Council: October 2019

Next review date: October 2022