

MELTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

DOGS AT SCHOOL

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

Melton West 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. Melton West 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 Mrs Michelle Costa, Melton West Primary School Principal

Pet dogs

Whilst Melton West 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.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the 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.

Supporting Documents and references

- Common law duty of care
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic)
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic)
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth)

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- *Statement of Values and School Philosophy*
- *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*
- *Duty of Care Policy*
- *Inclusion and Diversity Policy*

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2025 recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years

Melton West
PRIMARY SCHOOL