



## DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

### **Rationale**

Wheelers Hill Primary School seeks to ensure the safety of all students, staff, parents and visitors through both direct and indirect contact with animals.

This policy explains to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

### **1. Guidelines**

Wheelers Hill 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 Wheelers Hill 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 conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home.

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

### **2. Implementation**

2.1 Dogs are not permitted within the Wheelers Hill Primary School grounds or within Wheelers Hill Primary School buildings at any time, unless prior approval has been obtained by the Principal, and

- The animal is for education purposes or
- A dog that assists a person with a disability

2.2 If approval is given for a dog to be on Wheelers Hill Primary School 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 Wheelers Hill Primary School grounds or within a school building

2.3 The use of animals as part of teaching at Wheelers Hill Primary School will comply with the requirements of the Department of Education and Training policy on the Care and Use of Animals in Victorian Schools.

### **3. Communication**

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

- Made available publicly on our school website

- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## 4. Evaluation

4.1 The Education Sub Committee will review the effectiveness of the school's Animals on School Ground Policy on a cyclical basis in accordance with DET guidelines

### Related Policies/ Documents

[Duty of Care Policy](#)

[Visitors Policy](#)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Leasyl Richards – Assistant Principal.

**Ratified by School Council**

March 2024

**Approved by Principal**

**Next review**

2028