



Woodend Primary School

(Woodend Campus & Karlsruhe Annex)

Dog Policy

Rationale:

To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Woodend Primary School community.

Woodend PS acknowledges the important role that pets play in our community and the positive impact dogs can have on family life. The school also acknowledges the benefits of walking to and from school in a family group with a dog. Increased enrolments at Woodend PS in recent years have resulted in more dogs being brought onto school grounds. This has the potential to increase the risk of injury to children caused by dogs (e.g. bites and scratches) through dogs reacting adversely to unexpected noise and/or movement of children. Some children also feel intimidated by the presence of dogs in the grounds.

Aims:

- To minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
- For dog owners to consider the risks involved in bringing a dog into an environment where there are lots of young children, some of whom are unfamiliar and/or afraid of dogs.
- To ensure access to the school yard and buildings for people with Assistance Dogs.

Implementation:

1. Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds between 8 am and 4pm unless approved by the Principal.
2. It is not permitted to tether a dog at the school boundary fence.
3. Woodend Primary School accesses the Responsible Pet Ownership Program to educate students about responsible pet ownership and animal care.
4. Any stray dogs in the grounds will be reported to the ranger for collection.
5. If a dog poses an immediate risk to students then we will implement a "lock down" procedure.
6. Assistance dogs, Seeing Eye Dogs, Customs dogs etc are exempt from these regulations.
7. Dog owners are requested to leave dogs at home during school events such as: school sports, fetes, concerts
8. This policy will be communicated to all members of our school community via newsletter and on the website.

Resources:

DET Schools Advisory Guide

REVIEW

This policy was reviewed and endorsed in Nov 23.
This policy will be reviewed in Nov 24.