



DOGS AT BOX HILL NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact
98905023

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

SCOPE

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy](#) on PAL.

POLICY

Definitions

An **assistance dog** is trained and certified by a registered organisation to perform tasks or functions that help a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.

A **wellbeing and engagement animal** is an animal that has been suitably trained to provide animal-assisted wellbeing programs under the control of his/her handler.

A **School Support Animal** is an that is used to support student wellbeing and engagement. These animals provide comfort and emotional support to a range of students. They do not have the legal status of an assistance animal. Where the animal is a dog, it has been appropriately trained as a school support animal by a suitably qualified person and is under the care of its animal handler while at school. Other terms also used include emotional support animal and therapy animal. See below for a specific definition of therapy animal.

A **handler** is a volunteer or staff member in the school who is responsible and in control of a wellbeing dog while on school grounds and when facilitating the animal wellbeing program.

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A **stray dog** is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

Wellbeing and engagement animal

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

Pet dogs

Box Hill North Primary School and Kindergarten 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 Box Hill North Primary School and Kindergarten 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, 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 must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- families that bring 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 modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- 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

- [Visitors Policy](#)
- [Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2028