



PARK ORCHARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL DOGS AT PARK ORCHARDS PRIMARY

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

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionship 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 Dogs

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

Pet dogs

Park Orchards Primary School is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Dogs Prohibited

While Park Orchards Primary School recognises that many families in our community own pet dogs, the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors is our priority. To ensure the school remains a safe and inclusive environment, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds between **7:00 am and 6:00 pm** 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 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 and on Compass
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- This policy links to our Duty of Care and Visitors Policy
- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	23 June 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	This policy will be reviewed in June 2029