



Dogs in School POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact: Ashburton Primary School Office:

Tel: 03 9813 9400 Email: ashburton.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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.

A **Wellbeing dogs and therapy dogs** - dogs that attend school as part of an organised, structured and supervised in school session

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

Pet dogs

Ashburton 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 Ashburton 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, 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
- pet dogs are not to enter school buildings





- 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 via staff handbook
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly via our website
- Included in enrolment/transition packs
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [OUR DUTY OF CARE AND VISITORS POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)
- [WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT ANIMALS ON PAL](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2029

