

DOGS AT SCHOOL

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Mount Waverley North Primary School understands its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and Domestic Animal Act 1994 (Vic), and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require a Guide Dog or an Assistance Dog to help alleviate the effects of their disability.

Assistance/Therapy Dogs

Assistance/Therapy animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. All handlers working with children will be required to provide a Working with Children Check. As per the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the school Principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- Is an assistance animal
- is trained specifically to meet standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Mount Waverley North Primary School will allow all Registered Guide Dogs and Assistance/Therapy Dogs in accordance with the law.

For unregistered assistance dogs, Mount Waverley North Primary School will consider a request to allow an unregistered assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Principal on 9802 3168.

Policy Approved by:	Education Committee - School Council
Effective Date:	August 2023
Review by Date:	August 2027

Pet Dogs

Mount Waverley North 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.

Whilst Mount Waverley North 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 also conscious of the health and safety hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families do not bring their pet dogs onto school property or tether pet dogs to the perimeter fences.

Stray Dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the Principal. 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.

RELATED POLICIES

- Duty of Care Policy
- Volunteers and Visitors Policy

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's Evaluation of Policies Timetable.

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