



McKinnon Primary School Dogs at School Policy

1. Purpose:

1.1 To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds. The purpose of having a 'Dogs at McKinnon Primary School (MPS) Policy' is to ensure the enjoyment and safety of children, families and visitors who are in our environment and the safety and wellbeing of dogs in our community.

2. Policy:

2.1 MPS respects its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school principal or member of principal class can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

2.1.1 is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g. seeing eye dogs)

2.1.2 meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment

2.2 We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. MPS will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Assistant Principal.

2.3 Pet dogs are permitted at MPS

2.3.1 We recognise that many parents live locally and like to walk their children to and from school. While this is great for family relationships and physical health, it is also good for pet health too, therefore it is a great opportunity to bring pets along. Example MPS parents, carers and the community are reminded that the School is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to the school grounds and impose conditions of entry, if they wish.

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2.3.2 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.

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[Option 2 – dogs permitted with conditions]

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Whilst Example School MPS leadership team 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 in place that we expect all families to follow, if they wish to bring their pet dog onto our school grounds:

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2.3.2.1 pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult

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~~3-2.3.2.2~~ pet dogs must not be tied up, ~~or outside school grounds or and~~ left unaccompanied

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~~4-2.3.2.3~~ pet dogs must not be tied up, either inside or just outside the school grounds or be accompanied by a minor

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~~2-3-2-22.3.2.4~~ families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave

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2.3.2.32.3.2.5 dogs should be kept to open areas so as any students, staff or parents with allergies or who may be uncomfortable can maintain a safe distance walking through the school.

2.3.3 The principal has the authority to prohibit certain breeds and individual 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.

2.4 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.

3 Related Policies and Resources:

- 3.1 Duty of Care Policy
- 3.2 Visitors Policy
- 3.3 For information about Council By Laws please visit <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Resident-services/Pets/Having-problems-with-animals/Problems-with-dogs>

5. Evaluation

- 5.1. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in: November 2018

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