



# Dogs and other pets at School Policy

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

### Assistance dogs

Bonbeach Primary School understands 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 can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (eg seeing eye dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Bonbeach Primary School 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 school Principal Mr Ken Jones.

### Pet dogs and other pets

Bonbeach 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 Bonbeach 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 and other pets including cats, reptiles, guinea pigs, birds are not permitted on school grounds on school days between the hours of 8:30am-3:45pm, unless prior permission from the school principal has been granted.

An exemption to this is for school approved therapy or assistance dogs.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs and other pets. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask

that families please leave their pets at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

The principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs and pets 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.

### RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Therapy Dog policy

### REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on October 2020 and is scheduled for review in October 2023.