

Date May 2019	MELTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY
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1. PURPOSE

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

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Melton West 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 (e.g. 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. Melton West 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 Mrs Michelle Costa, Melton West Primary School Principal

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Whilst Melton West 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 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.

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

Supporting Documents and references

- Common law duty of care
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic)
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic)
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth)

Date Reviewed: (School Council Endorsement)	Not applicable
Date of Last Review	May 2019
Next Review Due Date	May 2022
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
Frequency of Review	Three year review cycle
References	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide

