



DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

12 - 14 Florence Street Blackburn 3130

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Definitions

An **assistance dog** is trained and certified by a registered organisation to perform tasks or functions that help a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.

A **handler** is a volunteer in the school who is responsible and in control of a wellbeing dog while on school grounds and when facilitating the animal wellbeing program.

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate 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.

Assistance dogs

Blackburn Lake 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 to alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g., seeing eye dogs, hearing and physical assistance 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. Blackburn Lake 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 principal.

Pet dogs

Are **not** permitted on site without prior arrangement with the principal. If walking dogs to school, parents/ carers must refrain from leaving their dogs tied up in and around main thoroughfares/gateways.

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 publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [Visitors Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Consultation	Staff School Council
Approved by	Principal David Dowson
Next scheduled review date	May 2026