

Wandiligong PS

DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

PURPOSE:

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds, including the use and management of staff members' dog/s in the classroom.

POLICY:

Classroom environment enhancement/Reading dogs

Wandiligong Primary School recognises that animals in the classroom can create a positive learning environment, including contributing to student wellbeing.

The staff member's dog/s will be on leash at all times whilst on the school grounds. When in the classroom the dog/s will be confined to its/their bed/s or in a portable kennel. Management of the dog/s is the 100% responsibility of the staff member; no student is to ever exert control over the dog/s. Students will be taught how to approach/greet/behave around dogs by the teacher/owner. Students will never feed the dog/s any food. Students will be given the opportunity to read to and to pat the dog/s but only when given permission by the teacher.

Pet dogs

Wandiligong 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 Wandiligong 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 unless on a leash and under complete control of the owner. No student is allowed to touch a dog on leash (that is not their own family dog) without the express permission of the parent (owner) and following the correct protocols when greeting a dog that is not their own family dog, i.e. the student will ask the owner if they may pat the dog; if the owner says yes, they will make a fist and let dog sniff the back of their hand; the student will never make loud noises or sudden movements around the dog and only one student at a time may greet the dog.

Our school community may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We ask that families that if their pet dog is not comfortable around children (other than their own) and displays any aggressive or anxious behaviour (including excessive barking) that dog must not be brought on school grounds under any circumstances. No dog is to be tied up and left unattended on school grounds.

The principal has the authority to prohibit certain 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.

Stray dogs

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Duty of Care Policy**

EVALUATION

Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with Principal

REVIEW CYCLE

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