



WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

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 **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

Wattle Park 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. Wattle Park 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

Wattle Park 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 Wattle Park 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, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds:

- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- pet dogs are not allowed inside any school buildings unless approved by the principal
- pet dogs are not to be taken near areas occupied by any animals that are part of the school education program e.g. the chicken coop

- dog owners are responsible for the removal of their dog's excrement if they enter the premises
- dog owners must be mindful that children are the first priority in a school environment and that some children are unfamiliar with and/or afraid of dogs
- dog owners have legal responsibilities and be aware that the school takes no responsibility for the behaviour or actions for their dogs
- families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to remove the dog from school premises.

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.

Wattle Park Primary School staff have the authority to remind dog owners of this policy in the case of non-compliance.

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 to ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Related Policies and Resources

[WPPS Visitors policy](#)

[WPPS Duty of Care Policy](#)

Policy review and approval

This policy was reviewed in 2022 and is scheduled for review in 2025.

Consultation with the Education Sub Committee and School Council in August 2022.