



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.

GUIDELINES

Assistance dogs

Upwey South Primary School acknowledges 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. The 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. Upwey South 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.

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 expect that families leave their pet dogs at home, or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

IMPLEMENTATION

Upwey South Primary School is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Upwey South 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 expectations which will be enforced to promote the safety of students, their families, and the pet dogs of families.

The rules that we expect all members of our community to adhere to are outlined below:

During the hours of 8:00am – 4:15pm on school days:

- ***Pet dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds.***

During School events:

- ***Pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds*** during Principal approved events where Upwey South Primary School students will be present (for example: Working Bees, Christmas Concerts, Parent Teacher Interviews, Open nights and Family nights)

During the hours of 7:00am-6:30pm on school days:

- Families are asked to be mindful that the school operates an Out of School Hours Service, conducted by Extend OSHC from 7:00am-6:30pm on school days.
- ***If there is a dog on the premises during the OSHC service hours,*** Extend staff reserve the right to direct the owner and their dog to leave school property, if the dog is deemed to be impacting upon students and their ability to move around the school.
- ***All dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult***
- Visitors to the school that bring pet dogs onto school grounds are required to pick up their dog's excrement
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds and left unaccompanied

During school term breaks and Curriculum Days:

- Families are asked to be mindful that the school operates an Out of School Hours Service, conducted by Extend OSHC from 7:00am-6:30pm during term breaks and on Curriculum Days.
- ***If there is a dog on the premises during the OSHC service hours,*** Extend staff reserve the right to direct the owner and their dog to leave school property, if the dog is deemed to be impacting upon students and their ability to move around the school.
- ***All dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult***
- Visitors to the school that bring pet dogs onto school grounds are required to pick up their dog's excrement
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds and left unaccompanied

IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

At times, pet dogs may be approved to attend the school grounds for educational purposes. This includes the dog used in the Responsible Pet Ownership Program. Where families wish to bring their pet dog into the school for a particular event, prior permission of the Principal is required.

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, to ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Duty of Care Policy and Statement

Volunteers and Visitors Policy

Yarra Ranges Council lost animal procedures

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Pets/Lost-animals>

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 30th October 2018 and is scheduled for review in February 2022.