



**UPWEY SOUTH**  
Primary School

## Dogs at School Policy



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact our administration team [upwey.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:upwey.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or phone 9757 0200.

### PURPOSE

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

### SCOPE

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy](#) Policy Advisory Library (PAL).

### DEFINITION

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

A **wellbeing dog** sits outside of the restrictions within this policy. For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

The **school grounds** are all areas within the border of the school, inclusive of both fenced and unfenced areas, inclusive of paths of travel from all adjacent streets.

### POLICY

Upwey South Primary School is not a public place, and the Principal and school staff have 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.

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 when approached by members of our school community.

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

## ENFORCEMENT

### During operational hours:

***Pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time during operational hours. This is inclusive of school drop-off and pick-up times.***

Operational hours are considered to be 7:00am- 6:30pm on all weekdays.

We request that families who wish to walk a pet dog during pick-up or drop-off remain with their dog at all times, and remain external to the boundaries of the school grounds.

***Community members are no longer permitted to tether dogs to the fenceline which borders any part of the school grounds.***

### During sanctioned school events:

***Pet dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds*** during approved school events at which Upwey South Primary School students will be present (for example: Christmas concerts, Parent Teacher interviews, open nights, etc).

### During school term breaks and curriculum days:

As the school operates an Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Service, ***pet dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds*** during operational hours of 7:00am- 6:30pm on weekdays.

### Educational activities:

At times, the principal may approve dogs or other animals to attend the school grounds for educational purposes. This includes accredited dogs used as part of the Responsible Pet Ownership Program.

## STRAY DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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 act to 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 and distributed via community newsletters
- Included in staff induction processes and annual staff training
- Included in volunteer induction processes and training for relevant volunteers
- Discussed an annual staff briefings or meetings
- Included in staff handbook or manual
- Included in manuals/ inductions for casual staff
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2030