Moonee Ponds Primary School
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DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this notice please contact Moonee Ponds Primary School on 9375 2511.

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 on PAL.

POLICY

Definitions

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.

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy on PAL.

Pet Dogs

Moonee Ponds 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 Moonee Ponds 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 (on short leads not extendable) at all times and in the control of a responsible adult, not by a child.
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied.
- Dog owners are requested to always be mindful that children are the first priority in a school environment and that some children are unfamiliar and/or afraid of dogs.
- Dog owners are requested to assess the demeanour of their dog before entering the school grounds and are requested not to enter the school grounds if the demeanour of the dog is not suited to an environment where children are present.

- Dog owners are requested to leave dogs at home during school events, such as, family gatherings, sports day, excursions and fetes.
- Dog owners must be familiar with their legal responsibilities and be aware that the school takes no responsibility for the behaviour or actions of their dogs.
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.
- Staff can request that dog owners remove their dog from the school grounds.
- Incidents involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported by Moonee Ponds PS to the City of Moonee Valley.
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement.
- Dog owners must abide by the City of Moonee Valley on leash laws, as follows:
    - A Council order, made under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, requires dogs to be kept on a leash at all times when in public places.
    - This law does not apply to a Declared Dangerous, Menacing or Restricted Breed Dog or a greyhound which must meet the restraint requirements specified under the Domestic Animal Act 1994.
    - The order also prohibits dogs from being within 15 metres of any children's playground, public barbeque, shared path or exercise equipment area.

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 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
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

The following Moonee Valley City Council website outlines local council regulations regarding dog ownership
https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/live/my-house/pets-animals/#Owning_dogs

The following Victorian Government website provides more information and outlines legal requirement of dog owners:
https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/dogs/legal-requirements-for-dog-owners/legal-requirements-overview

The following related policies can be found on the School Website at:
http://www.mpp.vic.edu.au/school-council/school-policies/

- Visitors and Volunteers Policy
- Duty of Care Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Consultation	Education Policy Sub Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2029 (4 Years)