



Purpose

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

Assistance Dogs

Altona Meadows 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 alleviate the effects of a disability (eg: seeing eye dogs)
- Meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for the school environment

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them participate in their educational program. Altona Meadows Primary School will consider a requests 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 Emma Hampton, School Principal.

Pet dogs

Whilst Altona Meadows 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 control of a responsible adult
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark or jump may be asked to leave

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 our office. School staff will contact municipal authorities for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

August 2021