



POOWONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

5 Gardner Lane
POOWONG, 3988
Victoria

Phone: 03 5659 2356
ABN: 33 226 568 545

Email.poowong.cs@education.vic.gov.au

Dogs at School Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Poowong Consolidated School school contact details PH: 03 5659 2356.

PURPOSE

Although this policy is written in relation to dogs, it can also be contextualised for any other assistance animal, animal-assisted therapy or wellbeing program in your school.

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds. This includes the procedures in place for our wellbeing dog program to support student engagement and mental health.

SCOPE

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 **wellbeing dog** is a dog that has been suitably trained to provide animal-assisted wellbeing programs under the control of his/her handler.

A **handler** is a volunteer in the school who is responsible and in control of a wellbeing dog while on school grounds and when facilitating the animal wellbeing program.

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

Poowong Consolidated 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 and)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.



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We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Poowong Consolidated 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

Poowong Consolidated 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.

Dogs permitted with conditions - at the discretion of the school

Whilst Poowong Consolidated 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:

- All dogs entering Poowong Consolidated School grounds must be on short leads (not extendable leads) and in the control of a responsible adult, not by a child.
- All 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 remove the dog from school premises.
- Dogs are not permitted to be inside the school buildings (unless permission is granted by the Principal).
- 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.
- 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 Poowong Consolidated School to the City of South Gippsland Shire.
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement.
- 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



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Breed Dog or a greyhound which must meet the restraint requirements specified under the Domestic Animal Act 1994.

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

Relevant school policies:

- [Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [Visitors Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2027 Recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years