

DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures, and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 1359 (2022)***

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

(a) Assistance Dogs

The Currajong School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* 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 (e.g. seeing eye dogs), therapy dogs for anyone suffering anxiety; and
- 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. The Currajong 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 a parent/carer would like to discuss this further, please contact the Principal or Assistant Principal of The Currajong School.

The Currajong School is guided by using Therapy Dogs Australia, or Paw Pals where families register for Therapy Dog assistance and using funding from individualised NDIS packages.

(b) Pet Dogs

The Currajong 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 of companion animals.

Whilst The Currajong 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, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances, unless previous arrangements have been made and all relative risk assessments have

been completed and rules put in place. (Therapy dogs may be considered on a case-by-case situation).

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. Families are required to leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

(c) 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.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as per our three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next review:
July 2024	School Board	July 2027



The Currajong School acknowledges the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.