

PARKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY: Dog Policy

PROGRAM LEADER: Rodney McKinlay

DATE RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: June 2014

RATIONALE

Parkhill Primary School is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The school's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children have a fear of dogs and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds.

This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners and/or handlers within the school grounds, excluding dogs specifically trained to enhance mobility or disability.

AIMS

1. Dogs are an important part of life for many Parkhill families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school.
2. While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that other children and adults can find contact with dogs stressful.
3. Dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and dog bites.
4. This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
5. Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dangerous dogs, dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity some of these matters are included in this policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Dogs must be under the control of an adult, and on a lead, at all times.
- Dogs must not be tied-up and/or left unattended at any time.
- Dogs must be kept away from main walkways and doorways where children pass exiting or entering classrooms.
- Owners must pick-up, and appropriately dispose of, their dog's excrement.
- Dogs are not permitted on grounds during major school community events including, but not limited to: family nights, annual fair and working bees.
- The Principal has the right to exclude any dogs which, in his/her opinion: are dangerous, that jump, growl, bark, fight or bite, and dogs that are not appropriately controlled by adults.
- Parkhill promotes the Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary Schools to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed, for responsible pet ownership and animal care.

EVALUATION

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

APPENDICES

- Nil

REFERENCES

- DEECD - School Policy and Advisory Guide: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/azindex.aspx>
- City of Monash website: Dogs and Cats: <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/community/dogs-cats.htm>