

## Dogs at Berwick Chase Primary School



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help understanding the information in this policy, please get in touch with Berwick Chase Primary School at 9707 7799

### PURPOSE

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

### POLICY

#### Assistance dogs

Berwick Chase Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic). It 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 explicitly trained our school in alleviating. Our school principal can use the law of seeing-eye 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 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. Berwick Chase Primary School will consider a request by a student; please get in touch with the principal 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

Berwick Chase 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 Berwick Chase 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, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.



Our school dogs may pose, including people who are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

### 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 Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds and ensuring staff and students remain safe.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Duty of Care

Supervision on Sight

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert another online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

*Duty of Care* and *Visitors* policies

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Policy last reviewed       | Jan 2023  |
| Approved by                | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | Jan 2026  |