



DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY

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

Brookside P-9 College 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 'service dog' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. The 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 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. Brookside P-9 College 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.

Pet dogs

Brookside P-9 College 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 Brookside P-9 College 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 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. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to Brookside P-9 College. 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.

Service Dogs

Service dogs ie Border force dogs are permitted in circumstances as guided by the law.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2024
Approved by	Principal
Consulted by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2028