



## DOGS AT MORANG SOUTH P.S. POLICY 2023-2027



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Morang South Primary School Office on 9404 1548.

### PURPOSE

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

### SCOPE

Morang South 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, and recognises different protocols for dogs which are specifically trained to enhance or support learning, wellbeing, mobility or disability.

### POLICY

#### Pet dogs

Morang South Primary School is not legally considered a public space, and therefore our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Morang South 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, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families:

- pet dogs must not be brought, carried onto, left unaccompanied, or tied up on school grounds
- owners/parents waiting outside the school perimeter for students must ensure pet dogs are leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- families that bring any dog/s within the vicinity of the school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, barks, or jumps may be asked to leave

The principal has the authority to prohibit 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. Families are also requested not to wait with dogs directly at entry/exit points, and particularly along the rear walkway access to Doreen Rogen Way.

#### 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.

#### Dog training

The grounds of Morang South Primary School may be hired out of school hours (weekends or evenings) for the purpose of dog training lessons. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that;

- trainee dogs must be leashed at all times when not undertaking lessons and remain in the control of a responsible adult
- trainee dogs on or off leash must be contained or under the control of a responsible adult throughout lessons
- trainee dogs must not be left unaccompanied or tied up on school grounds
- members of the public accessing the facilities or grounds are made aware when dog training lessons are in progress

#### Assistance dogs

Morang South Primary 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 (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. Morang South Primary 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. An appointment time will need to be made with the principal to discuss these circumstances.

### COMMUNICATION PLAN

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Visitors Policy
- Duty of Care Policy

#### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Consultation	School Council November 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2027