

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy relates to all members of our school community and to public users on school grounds.

POLICY

Assistance dogs

Boneo 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 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. Boneo 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. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Principal.

Programs including Dogs/Pets

Boneo Primary School participates in the Story Dogs and Canine Comprehension programs. These programs include the attendance of trained dogs accompanied by their owners to deliver reading and participation programs with small groups of students.

Dogs/Pets

Boneo 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 Boneo 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 to follow if they wish to bring a pet onto school grounds. Pets can only be on school grounds for share time after prior permission has been sought.

- pets must be leashed/secured in a container at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pets must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain 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.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the Principal. 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.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty of Care Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

ENDORSEMENT

This policy was ratified by School Council on 15th June 2021.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy is scheduled for review June 2024.