



No Dogs Policy at Heathmont East Primary School



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the office on (03) 9729 5439 or visit <https://heathmonteastps.vic.edu.au/>

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community that, other than permitted assistance animals, dogs are not permitted on Heathmont East Primary School grounds, and to outline the rules and procedures in place to keep our school safe, inclusive, and free of the risks associated with dogs on site.

POLICY

Definitions

An assistance dog is trained and certified by a registered organisation to perform tasks or functions that help a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.

A pet dog relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A stray dog is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

No dogs on school grounds

Heathmont East Primary School is not a public place, and our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and to impose conditions of entry.

To keep our school a safe and inclusive environment for all students, staff, and visitors, dogs (including pet dogs) are not permitted on school grounds at any time, including:

- during the school day
- before and after school, including at pick-up and drop-off
- at school events such as the Christmas Concert, Colour Run, Movie Nights, and Athletics Day
- on school excursions or off-site activities organised by the school, unless separately approved

This policy applies regardless of whether the dog is leashed, carried, or otherwise restrained. Families, staff, and visitors are asked not to bring dogs inside the school gate, car park, or any part of the school grounds.

The Principal has the authority to modify this policy at any time to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students, and members of our school community.

Assistance dogs

Heathmont East 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. This is the only category of dog permitted on school grounds. Assistance dogs 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 (e.g., seeing eye dogs, hearing and physical assistance 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 participate in their educational program. Heathmont East 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 school Principal on (03) 9729 5439.

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 to ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Breaches of this policy

Families or visitors who bring a pet dog onto school grounds will be asked to remove the dog immediately. Repeated or serious breaches of this policy may be referred to the Principal for further action.

COMMUNICATION

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

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Nil at this time.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
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Consultation	Principal, leadership team, Education Sub-Committee and School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2028