



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
No.2608

ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL DRAFT DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY June 2022



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the Ascot Vale Primary School office in person or on 9370 6507.

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

Ascot Vale Primary School (AVPS) 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 (e.g. 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. AVPS 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 on 9370 6507.

Pet dogs

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

AVPS acknowledges the important role that pets, dogs in particular, play in our community and the positive impact dogs can have on family life. For many community members, dogs are an important part of the family. The school also acknowledges the benefits of walking to and from school in a family group with a dog.

Whilst AVPS 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 their pet dog onto school grounds:

- All dogs entering AVPS must be on short leads (not extendable leads) that are controlled by an adult, not by a child.
- Dogs must be on leash at all times when on school grounds, not just during school hours.
- Dog owners are requested to always be mindful that children are the first priority in a school environment and that some children are unfamiliar with and/or afraid of dogs.
- Dog owners are requested to assess the demeanour of their dog before entering the school grounds and are requested not to enter the school grounds if the demeanour of the dog is not suited to an environment where children are present.
- Dog owners are requested to leave dogs at home during school events, such as family gatherings and fetes.
- Dog owners must be familiar with their legal responsibilities and be aware that the school takes no responsibility for the behaviour or actions of their dogs.
- Staff can request that dog owners remove their dog from the school grounds.
- Incidents involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported by the school to the City of Moonee Valley.
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement.
- Dog owners must abide by the City of Moonee Valley on-leash laws, as follows:
 - A Council order, made under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, requires dogs to be kept on a leash at all times when in public places.
 - This law does not apply to a Declared Dangerous, Menacing or Restricted Breed Dog or a greyhound which must meet the restraint requirements specified under the Domestic Animal Act 1994.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school on 9370 6507. 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 AVPS POLICIES

- <https://avps.vic.edu.au/policies--standards.html>

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	AVPS School Council Education and Policy Sub Committee – 6/6/2022 Community Consultation – 14/06/2022 Staff Consultation 14/06/2022
Approved by	Principal – Sue Osborne
Next scheduled review date	June 2025