

DOGS AT SCHOOL POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Michele Chng from our EAL Team who will arrange for an interpreter to translate any documents.

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

Kangaroo Flat Primary School understands its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Vic) 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. Kangaroo Flat 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.

School Service Dogs

Kangaroo Flat Primary has a trained wellbeing dog named 'Bonnie' who attends the school regularly. Many students have participated in the training of 'Bonnie', whilst all are familiar with her. Whilst our dog is used to provide comfort and support, we understand that not all children are comfortable around dogs. For this reason, we have an 'opt-out' system whereby parents and carers can stipulate if they would prefer their child not to have contact with our dog. Please contact the office if you wish to discuss this option. This will then be recorded on Sentral for staff.

COMMUNICATION

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

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy was last updated in February 2021 and is scheduled for review in February 2024