



Kalinda Primary School No. 5121

Dogs at Kalinda Primary School

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

Kalinda Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* 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. Kalinda 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 Mr. Shaun McClare.

Pet dogs

Kalinda 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 Kalinda 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, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds between 6am and 6pm weekdays.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

Show and tell

An exception to this may be when a family is bringing a dog for ‘Show and Tell’ in the classroom. This may occur under the following conditions:

- Permission has been arranged prior to the day with the Principal and Classroom teacher.
- Families in the class have been notified and given option to withdraw consent for their child to have contact with the dog.
- The dog is brought on to school grounds after 9am and leaves before 3.30pm.
- The dog remains the sole responsibility of the Parent or Guardian.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the Kalinda Primary School office. 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.

School Dog

This policy is separate from the Policy created for the Kalinda Primary School Dog “Roxie”. Roxie’s presence in the school is regulated under the “School Dog Policy” (2019)

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

School Dog Policy (2019)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in July 2019 and is scheduled for review in 2022.