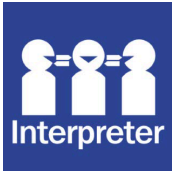




ARMSTRONG CREEK SCHOOL

DOGS IN SCHOOLS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Armstrong Creek School on 03 5218 5100 or armstrong.creek.school@education.vic.gov.au

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 only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy](#) on PAL.

POLICY

Definitions

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionship 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.

Wellbeing dogs:

At Armstrong Creek School we endeavour to ;

- Have a duty to develop and model practices where teaching and learning can be linked to the love, care, and connection of our school dog.
- Draw on the skills and knowledge of the school, Dogs Connect staff, and the wider community and enter into practices that are mutually beneficial to all community members.
- Implement effective decision-making practices in collaboration with the School Executive, Dogs Connect staff, school staff and where appropriate the wider community.

Aim:

We aim for the responsible implementation of a structured program through which a school wellbeing dog/s will be used to assist the school community in experiencing connectedness, developing links to learning throughout the school community, and helping to develop students who are socially adept, respectful, just, and appreciative of diversity.

Practices:

This vision is enacted through the following procedures/systems:

- Reflection on current teaching and learning practices and student data.
- A thoroughly considered and gradually implemented program involving the school dog interacting with staff and students on many levels.
- Documentation and review of current risk assessment, agreed practice, and implementation schedule.
- Alignment of Agreed Practice with current pedagogy and student/staff needs.
- Reflection and evaluation to guide future action/implementation to ensure suitability of all practices.
- Clearly signed notification that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, unless previously authorised.

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

Pet dogs

Armstrong Creek 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.

Dogs prohibited

Whilst Armstrong Creek School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs, cats and other animals as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs, cats and other animals are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

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

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs, cats or other animals 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, cat or other animal from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

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
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

The following school policies are relevant to this policy and can be located the [ACS School Website](#):

- [ACS Duty of Care Policy](#)

- [ACS Visitors Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed:	May 2026
Approved by:	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2030