

## **Pinewood Primary School**

### **Dogs at School Policy**

#### **RATIONALE**

Pinewood Primary School is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The school's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children have a fear of dogs and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds.

This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners and/or handlers within the school grounds, excluding dogs specifically trained to enhance or support learning, mobility or disability.

#### **AIM**

1. While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that other children and adults can find contact with dogs stressful.
2. Dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and dog bites.
3. This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
4. Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dangerous dogs, dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity some of these matters are referenced in this policy.
5. Principals and school staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- The School is concerned with the safety of students, parents, staff and visitors at Pinewood PS. It is for the reasons outlined above that Principal (after seeking feedback from School Council) has decided that dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds from 7:00am – 6:15pm on school days.
- Dogs are also not permitted on school grounds outside of these hours during Principal approved events where Pinewood PS students will be present e.g. Working Bees, Twilight Sports, Christmas Concerts, Parent Teacher Interviews, Open Nights and Family nights.
- Where community members wish to bring their dog into the school for a particular event prior permission of the Principal is required.
- Pinewood Primary School promotes the 'Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary School' to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed, for responsible pet ownership and animal care.

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Pinewood Primary School Policy Review Timeline or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

## **APPENDICES**

- Nil

## **REFERENCES**

- DET - School Policy and Advisory Guide:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/azindex.aspx>
- City of Monash website:  
<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Services/Pets-Pests/Animal-Regulations>

Ratified by School Council School Council President		September 2016
Principal Karen Jenkin		September 2016