

Rationale

Mount View Primary School acknowledges the important role that pets, dogs in particular, play in our community and the positive impact dogs can have on their family. A dog can be a joy but they also come with a major responsibility. The school also acknowledges the benefits of walking to and from school in a family group with their pet dog.

However, in recent times at Mount View Primary School we have seen more dogs being brought to school so we have now developed this Dog Policy. With the increase of dogs being brought to school this in turn has the potential to increase the risk of injury to children caused by dogs (e.g. bites and scratches) through dogs reacting adversely to unexpected noise and/or movement of children. We implement City of Monash on-leash laws to promote and encourage positive health, safety and well-being for our community. This policy covers all dogs (except guide dogs or support dogs)

Aims

- For the safety of children to be the first priority at Mount View Primary School
- For dog owners to carefully consider the risks involved in bringing a dog into an environment where there are lots of young children, some of whom are unfamiliar and/or afraid of dogs
- For dog owners to carefully consider the necessity and risks of bringing a dog onto the school grounds
- For dog owners to keep their dogs at home if there is any risk of their dog becoming aggressive at school towards humans or other dogs

Dogs are allowed on the school grounds under the following guidelines

- All dogs entering Mount View Primary School must be on **short leads** that are controlled by an adult, not by a child
- Dog owners are requested to always be mindful that children are the first priority in a school environment and that some children are unfamiliar 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, Parents' Association Movie night. Twilight Carnival etc.
- 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's inappropriate behaviour towards children, adults or other animals will be reported to the City of Monash
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement
- Dog owners must abide by the City Of Monash on leash laws
- Dog owners should ensure that they are aware of pet regulations set out by the City of Monash, please go to the following website, www.monash.vic.gov.au and refer to the Pets and Pests section and read the [Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 \(PDF, 1MB\)](#). It explains the City of Monash policies for pets and other animals.

Please note: It is strongly encouraged that dog owners who bring their dog to school when collecting their children should arrange for the children to meet them on the Walden Oval/under-cover shelter area. This area is spacious and less congested.

This policy was ratified by School Council on 29 November 2016