



St Andrews
Primary School
No: 0128

St Andrews Primary School
Caledonia Street
St Andrews, 3761
Ph. (03) 9710.1255
Fax (03) 9710.1827
www.standrewsps.vic.gov.au

Dogs in Schools Policy

RATIONALE

We believe that dogs in the school environment can:

- Help children from a young age to learn to care for other living things.
- Teach a sense of responsibility, caring and tolerance.
- Offer many opportunities for developing observational skills and basic natural science experiences.
- Reduce stress, improve morale and reflect our community culture and understanding.

Although this policy does not specifically relate to Therapy Dogs we believe that other dogs can also offer a range of proven benefits including:

- increase in school attendance
- gains in confidence
- decrease in learner anxiety behaviours resulting in improved learning outcomes
- positive changes towards learning and improved motivation
- enhanced relationships with peers and teachers due to experiencing trust unconditional.
- enhanced student ability to express their feelings and enter into trusting relationships.

AIMS

At St Andrews Primary School we believe that all our students should learn in an environment that amongst other things:

- Offers an extensive engaging learning program for all students
- Develops responsible, caring community members
- Offers a positive learning environment.

This policy covers all aspects of a dog in a school environment; careful management of these strategies ensures:

- there is a very low risk of harm to children, teachers, visitors or to the dog.
- many positive aspects are enjoyed.

IMPLEMENTATION

Permission to bring a dog to school will be at the discretion of the principal who will consider the guidelines set down by the Education Department and School Council as follows.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children the school will;

- Ensure the dog is healthy through regular veterinary checks
- Seek animal behaviorist/veterinary advice about the suitability of dog's temperament and response to commands.
- Regularly revise classroom rules and procedures in relation to the dog.
- Ensure the dog is under adult supervision at all times.
- Teach all children care and treatment of the dog and all animals including such things as not putting face near dog, never feeding the dog, or disturbing while eating drinking or sleeping.
- Ensure that the dog will continue to be trained in obedience
- Ensure that any dog excrement be disposed of appropriately.

Should any injury (emotional or physical) to a student, teacher or visitor to the school be brought to the attention of a teacher or the principal the following process will take place:

- Seek immediate medical attention if required.
- Notify parents of any child injured as soon as possible
- Provide a safe comfort buffer zone between the dog and students.
- Principal to investigate the incident with all parties involved and document accurately and request the owner seek advice from a veterinarian/animal behaviourist
- If incident is not satisfactorily resolved at the school, parents encouraged to act according to Parent Complaint Policy and procedure.
- The school will act upon any advice given by the Education Department after appropriate complaint procedures.

THIS POLICY DOES NEED SCHOOL COUNCIL APPROVAL	
Date Presented to School Council for Ratification	11/02/2019