

Dogs in the School Ground Policy

1. RATIONALE

Templestowe Park PS recognises the positive influence that pets, including dogs, can have in the community and in particular, on a child's life. Being a school that encourages physical activity, Templestowe Park PS encourages students and their families to walk to school whenever possible and acknowledge the benefits of walking to and from school with a dog.

However, with Templestowe Park Primary School's high number of student enrolments, it is important that dogs in the playground do not pose a threat to any member of the school community. In addition to this, Templestowe Park's Outdoor Eco Education Centre (OEEC) contains chickens. This policy has been designed to ensure the safety of all students, adults and animals while supporting the choice of families within the community to walk their dog to and from school.

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.

2. GOALS

- 2.1 To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 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.

3.2 Pet Dogs

Templestowe Park PS 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 Templestowe Park PS 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, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds:

- No dogs will be allowed in the school premises between the times of 9am and 3pm. Outside of these times, dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.
- Dogs brought into the grounds, including during holidays, weekends and after hours, must be kept on a short lead (not an extendable lead) at all times.
- Dog owners are required to always be mindful that children are the first priority in a school environment and that some children are allergic, unfamiliar and even afraid of dogs.

- Dog owners are required 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 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 at any time.
- Incidents involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported by Templestowe Park PS to the Manningham Council.
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

3.3 **Stray Dogs**

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

5. EVALUATION

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Consultation	Consulted / feedback received with School Council in May 2026
Approved by	School Council 17/6/2026
Next scheduled review date	June 2029