



## Dogs at School and in School Grounds Policy

### PURPOSE

To explain and outline to our school community, the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs being present on our school grounds.

### POLICY

#### Pet dogs

Glen Huntly Primary School is not a public place and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to anyone and their dogs to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Glen Huntly Primary School 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:

- Pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- Dog owners must not allow your dog to worry or threaten any person or animal
- Dog owners must bring their dog under control immediately if it threatens any person or animal
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on or near the school grounds or left unaccompanied
- Families who bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave
- Pet dogs will not be allowed at whole school events such as, School Fete, Carols, Family Fun Night etc.
- It is always the responsibility of dog owners to clean up after their dog. Owners are advised to carry biodegradable bags or waste scoops and drop the waste in the nearest appropriate bin. If there is no bin available, then dog owners are requested to please dispose of the dog in another suitable bin.

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 all times.

#### Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school must 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 students, students and anyone in our school grounds and building remain safe at school.

#### Assistance dogs

Glen Huntly Primary School understands and implements its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125> and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/equal-opportunity-act-2010/030>, and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community or visitors with a disability who require an assistance animal

to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person assuage the effects of a disability (eg: seeing-eye dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Glen Huntly Primary School will consider a request by involving a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis.

If necessary approval is granted, Glen Huntly Primary School will work with this student, family and relevant teacher/s to implement a plan for day to day care the assistance animal ie: feeding, toileting, who to call should the assistance animal be unwell or other consideration for this arrangement to work as best it can. Guidance may be sought from Guide Dogs Australia. <https://guidedogs.com.au/how-we-help/access-rights/> Glen Huntly Primary School may write to the relevant Department of Education office to seek funding, if this is needed, Reference: <https://guidedogs.com.au/how-we-help/support-for-children/education-department-funding/#what-is-education-department-funding>.

If anyone in the school community or a visitor to our school would like to discuss these aspects further, then they must and are invited to contact the Principal.

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- GHPS Duty of Care Policy: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10x0kNmPoNvAQhqIDGjRfnONupLwaKNW0PJPI5vpW\\_Ds/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10x0kNmPoNvAQhqIDGjRfnONupLwaKNW0PJPI5vpW_Ds/edit)
- Department of Education Duty of Care policy: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/duty-of-care/policy>
- GHPS Visitors' Policy: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U3R5WG7UVI6eILq-amHsGuHQZTcOVO3VfaHmNpzOOi8/edit>
- Department of Education Visitors in Schools Policy: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/visitors/policy>
- <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/pets-and-animals/dog-walking-and-off-leash-areas>
- <https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/media/2899/dog-on-and-off-leash-guide-2022.pdf> ).

## **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was ratified by School Council in September, 2023 and is scheduled for review in September, 2026, or earlier if required.