



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Rosebud Primary School office on 5986 8274.

RATIONALE

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

POLICY

Rosebud Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)* and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)* and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community 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 Leadership can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g. 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. Rosebud Primary School will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact RPS Leadership.

Pet dogs

Rosebud Primary School is not a public place, and our Leadership Team has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Rosebud 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, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to our Office Administration staff who 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.

Staff Dogs

At no stage are staff dogs permitted on the school grounds or brought in to classrooms.

IMPLEMENTATION (DET APPROVED DOGS)

Staff must check DET Guidelines when organising animal visits and check that all handlers are fully trained and have a full understanding of DET and Wildlife Guidelines. Only trained animals are allowed access to Rosebud Primary School's grounds for an educational purpose.

Staff will be made aware of any student with animal related allergies. This must be taken into account when planning activities or visits involving animals.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	02/2022
Consultation	DET POLICY
Approved by	S/C
Next scheduled review date	02/2026