	Policy Name:	Animals on school ground	Date of approval:	28/5/2018
	Responsible:	Leadership	Review date:	05/2022

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUND POLICY



RATIONALE


A policy for the use of animals in school reinforces in students the need to safely care for the needs of living things.

PURPOSE

1. Provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff when animals are on the school premises.
2. Ensure all animals are treated humanely and safely and the animal's needs are met at all times.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Staff and students provide safe care and handling for animals whether kept as school pets or brought into the school with handlers.
2. Staff must check DET Guidelines when organizing animal visits and check that all handlers are fully trained and have a full understanding of DET and Wildlife Guidelines.
3. 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.
4. Families are asked not to bring any animals or pets into the school grounds unless approval has been sought from the Principal or Assistant Principal.
5. Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee (VSAEC) has responsibility for determining what activities involving the use of animals are permissible in schools. In determining these activities, VSAEC is guided by relevant legislation and codes. Teachers are also required to go through a process of deciding whether the use of animals is justified, see Policies and Guidelines.

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6. Individuals or organisations who have received express permission to bring animals to school for a lesson or exhibit and who do not require VSAEC approval or notification must ensure that the pet is under the owner's control at all times.

This includes:

- performances by outside agencies which have animals as part of their exhibits
- animal welfare organizations bringing animals to school e.g., RSPCA

7. Staff are to ensure appropriate student/teacher behaviour around animals at all times.

8. Guide Dogs and trained Care Dogs are exempt from the Animals in School Policy when in the hands of a trained owner or handler.

9.. The Animals In Schools Policy applies during school hours, including before and after school, during special school events, when students are on school excursions (including overnight experiences) or sporting activities (unless otherwise permitted by the Principal)

10. Any exemptions to the Animals in School Policy due to a parent or student disability, or specific health condition, must be applied for in writing to the Principal.