

	FRANKSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Dogs in School Policy	Reviewed 2022 Next Review 2026
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Purpose

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

Implementation

Assistance dogs – including Therapy Dogs

Frankston 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 principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate 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. Frankston 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 the Principal.

Frankston Primary School’s Therapy Dog has completed registered Therapy Dog training and provides emotional support for a variety of students at Frankston Primary through our Student Engagement and Support Program.

Pet dogs

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

Dogs prohibited

Whilst Frankston 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, including our school therapy dog, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds.

We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds, well away from school entry and exit gates, when attending our school.

Dogs permitted with conditions

Frankston Primary School understands that students are fond of their pet dogs and on receiving a new puppy into the family and may organise a specific share time with their teacher in which an adult may bring the family dog/ puppy to class. If this is the case, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog for 'show and tell':

- pet dogs for class 'show and tell' must be pre-organised and approved by the class teacher and the principal informed
- pet dogs must be removed from school grounds immediately after the class 'show and tell'
- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- 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.

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.

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

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Frankston Primary School – Duty of Care Policy](#)
- [Frankston Primary School – Visitors Policy](#)

REVIEWED	2022
PRINCIPAL	Renée Kennedy
EVALUATION	This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle, or as required due to changes in relevant Acts, Laws, DET mandates, or should situations arise that require earlier consideration.