

DOGS AT BEAUMARIS SECONDARY COLLEGE

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs onsite the Beaumaris Secondary College grounds.

SCOPE

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the Therapy Dog policy on our school website [Policies - Beaumaris SC](#) and the DET [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy](#) on PAL.

POLICY

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.

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

Pet dogs

Beaumaris Secondary College is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Beaumaris Secondary College 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 this includes weekends and after school operating hours.

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 when attending our school or school events.

- For the safety of the dog, as well as for the benefit of others, do not tie your pet to the school gate and leave it unattended.
- Should you be approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the School Council to apply the agreed policy.

Dogs being brought in the school as an educational activity for students Schools may wish from time to time to bring a dog into the school as part an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs. The following guidance should be adhered to:

- A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit.
- The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament.
- The organisation has public liability insurance.
- Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out.
- The extent of interaction with the students and permissions received.
- Alternative arrangements for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.
- All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of students.
- Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that students or staff may have.
- students have been informed of the appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in the conjunction with the organisation bringing in the dog and guidance taken from them.
- Good hygiene and hand washing procedures in place for students.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to reception. 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.

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
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Beaumaris Secondary College *Duty of Care* and *Visitors* policies can be found on our website [Policies - Beaumaris SC](#)
- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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| Policy last reviewed | May 2025 |
| Approved by | School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | May 2028 |