

## Dogs at school Policy (Animals in School)

Reviewed by:

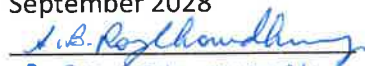
Date reviewed: September 2024

Date of next review: September 2028

Signature:

Name:

Position:

  
S. Roy CHOWDHURY  
PRINCIPAL



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our office on 03 5754 4005.

### **Purpose:**

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

### **Policy:**

#### **Assistance dogs**

Mount Beauty Secondary College 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. Mount Beauty Secondary College will consider a request for 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 on 03 5754 4005.

#### **Pet dogs**

Mount Beauty Secondary College is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Mount Beauty 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, 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
- 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 remove the dog from school premises.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. 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 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 at school.

**Animals in Classes**

All animals (including dogs) which Staff and Students wish to bring onto the school grounds is at the discretion of the Principal and must have prior approval.

**Further Information and Resources:****Review Cycle:**

This policy was last updated on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and is scheduled for review in September 2028.