



## Dogs at School Policy

### 1. PURPOSE:

Regency Park Primary School (RPPS) is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. RPPS has a duty of care to ensure the safety of all students, staff and parents/carers whilst attending RPPS, through direct and indirect contact with animals. We acknowledge that dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to falls and dog bites. Our community is diverse and some students, staff and parents/carers have a fear of some animals or may be allergic and therefore need to be considered in providing a safe environment.

### 2. AIMS:

This policy aims to:

- Ensure that DET policy on student safety/ duty of care is upheld at all times.
- Provide for the safety of students, staff and parents/ carers within the environment of RPPS grounds, in line with DET policies and Knox Council by – laws.
- Meet our obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) by making reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an ‘assistance animal’ to help alleviate the effects of their disability.

### 3. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all parents and carers in our community, students, school staff, visitors and contractors.

### 4. POLICY:

1. Regency Park Primary School is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.
2. Dogs will not be permitted within the school grounds from 8.00am to 5.00pm on Monday – Friday, nor will they be permitted on school grounds during school events including, but not limited to, Community Night, Family Nights, sporting events and working bees.
3. Dogs must not be tied up on school fences or left unaccompanied on the school boundary. This is consistent with Knox Council Responsible Pet Ownerships rules where dog owners must have effective control. Effective control means that the dog owner must remain within effective voice or hand control distance of the dog at all times.
4. All entrances and exits to the school must be kept clear so that all students, staff, parents/carers can walk safely in and out of the school.
5. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school principal will consider such requests on a case by case basis and 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.
6. Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school will 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 to ensure staff and students remain safe at school.
7. RPPS promotes the Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary Schools to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed for responsible pet ownership and animal care. Specialised resources will be sourced in order to implement this program through appropriate Inquiry units of work.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- a. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

- b. Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- c. Duty of Care Policy
- d. Knox Council Animals and Pets <https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/animals>

**EVALUATION:**

This policy was last reviewed in 2024.