Dogs in School ground Policy

Date Implemented	April 2026
Document Owner	Assistant Principal
Approved By	WYPS School Council
Approval Authority SC President	
Approval by Principal or Nominee	 DATE: 4/04/2026
Review Date	April 2030

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy on PAL.

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.

Woori Yallock Primary school, although a public place, our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Woori Yallock 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, 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:

- parents seek approval from the principal to bring their leashed dogs into school
- 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 will be asked to leave.
- dogs assisting people with a disability are excluded from the above.

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.

STAFF DOGS

Staff dogs are permitted on school grounds as part of a carefully managed and approved wellbeing initiative. Any dog brought to school must be fully trained, well-behaved, and deemed suitable for a school environment, with formal approval granted by the Principal prior to attendance.

These dogs are expected to consistently demonstrate calm and appropriate behaviour, and any signs of aggression, distress, or disruption to teaching and learning will result in the dog being immediately withdrawn from the program and no longer permitted on site.

When appropriately managed, staff dogs can have a positive impact on the school community, supporting student wellbeing, reducing anxiety, and promoting a calm and welcoming environment. Their presence can also help foster empathy, responsibility, and emotional regulation in students, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive school culture.

STRAY DOGS

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

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request