

DOGS AT CAULFIELD JUNIOR COLLEGE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the front office.

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Assistance dogs

Caulfield Junior 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. Caulfield Junior College 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.

Pet dogs

Caulfield Junior 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 Caulfield Junior 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.

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 or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

Dogs Connect

Our school does provide a wellbeing program through the Dogs Connect Organisation. This is a program that is tailored specifically for schools and staff who are trained in managing the program. The Wellbeing Dog is also specifically trained to work within a school setting. The dogs connected with this program are the only dogs permitted onsite.

Stray dogs

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty Of Care

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2022
Consultation	Policy Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2026