



Footscray
High School

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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

Footscray High School 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 in alleviating 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. Footscray High School 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.

Therapy Dogs

Therapy dogs attend Footscray High School at the discretion of the Principal. Therapy dogs will be under the direct supervision of their trainer or another competent staff member unless they have time out/a rest in their allocated 'safe place'. The welfare of Therapy dogs will be a priority, and each dog will have a trainer with Therapy Dog certification. The qualification provides knowledge on how to ensure safe and meaningful interactions through appropriate boundaries and the ability to identify distress in the animal. Therapy dogs will be held to strict hygiene, and health standards, including mandatory vet checks every six months and professional grooming every second month. If you do not want your child to directly interact with a Therapy Dog at Footscray High School, you can opt-out by emailing: info@footscray.vic.edu.au.

Pet dogs

Footscray High School 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 Footscray High 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, 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. Pets are only permitted on site with expressed permission from the Principal.

Stray dogs

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

Related policies AND RESOURCES

[Duty of Care Policy](#)

[Visitors Policy](#)

Review period

This policy was last updated in November 2020 and is scheduled for review annually, beginning November 2021.