

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

Rationale:

- Dogs are an important part of life for many Pearcedale Primary School families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening. Pearcedale Primary aims to introduce a policy that is fair to all parties and establishes clear guidelines concerning the presence of dogs in, and close to, the school grounds. Dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in excited and/or crowded environments, sometimes leading to dog fights. Children to, behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and even dog bites.
- The Dog in School Grounds policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Pearcedale Primary community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds. The purpose of the “Dogs in the School grounds” policy is to support the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school.

Aims:

- To provide for the safety of students, toddlers and parents within the environment of the school yard.
- To ensure access to the school yard and buildings for people with disabilities requiring the use of dogs.

Implementation:

- Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds at all times unless given approval by the Principal. The exception to this policy is for dogs which assist people with disabilities.
- It is not permitted to tether a dog at the school boundary fence. Dogs cannot be tied-up and/or left unattended at any time.
- It is suggested people with dogs arrange in advance with school children where they will be dropped-off and collected, at the beginning and end of each school day.
- Pearcedale Primary School 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.
- “No dogs allowed” signs will be posted at all school gates.
- This policy will be sent home to all parents and added to the school’s website.
- Any stray dogs in the school grounds will be immediately reported to the ranger for collection

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

Monday 7th November 2022