

Castlemaine Primary School

Dogs at School Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Castlemaine Primary School on 03 5472 1452 or castlemaine.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

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.

POLICY

Definitions

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.

Wellbeing dogs

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

Pet dogs

Castlemaine Primary 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.

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.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should 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, 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
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty of Care and Visitors policies – available on the school website
- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	4 th September 2026
Approved by	Principal – Kate Ward
Next scheduled review date	4 th September 2029