

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

(a) Assistance Dogs

Katandra 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 alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g. seeing eye dogs); and
- 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. Katandra 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 Rhett Watts; the Principal of Katandra School or Wendy Sheppard; Leader of student management and wellbeing.

(b) Pet Dogs

Katandra 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 Katandra 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, unless previous arrangements have been made and all relative risk assessments have been completed and rules put in place. (Therapy dogs may be considered on a case by case situation).

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.

(c) 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Katandra School's *Duty of Care* and *Visitors* policies.

REVIEW CYCLE

This Code of Conduct or Policy was endorsed/approved by the Katandra School Council on November 2018 for review if legislative or other changes require in the interim or no later than November 2022.

Date Implemented	November 2018
Author	Rhett Watts
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	School Council President: Mario Delosa Signature: Date:
Date Reviewed	November 2022
Responsible for Review	Rhett Watts, Wendy Sheppard, Jacqui Lamden
References	Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide