

# DOGS ON COLLEGE GROUNDS

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

This Policy takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Hazel Glen College community, and aims to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the College grounds.

### Assistance dogs

Hazel Glen 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 College 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 College 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 College to help them to participate in their educational program. Hazel Glen 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 a member of the Leadership Team on 03 9717 7500.

### Pet dogs

Hazel Glen College is not a public place, and our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to College grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Hazel Glen College understands that many families in our College community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our College remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on College grounds between the hours of 7:30am and 5:00pm and must not be left unattended around the main entrances to the College grounds where children may have to walk past them.

Our College 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 when attending our College or College events.

"No dogs allowed" signs will be posted at all College entrances and gates.

The Principal does have the authority, on occasion, to permit a dog to be brought to the College. Permission must be sought from the Principal at least 48 hours prior to the event, and if permission is approved, guidelines for the dog visit are as follows:

- Pet dogs must be kept on a short leash at all times and in the control of a responsible adult only.
- Pet dogs must not be tied up or left unaccompanied on school grounds
- The dog owner is responsible for any soiling by the dog on the College grounds
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our College community at any time.

### **Stray dogs**

Should a stray or wandering dog be sighted at the College, College 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](#)

[Risk Management - Schools](#)

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was last updated in May 2021 and shall be reviewed regularly.