



GUTHRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

No Dogs on School Grounds Policy

BACKGROUND

Guthridge Primary School's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Every person has the right to feel safe whilst on school grounds.

Over recent times, more dogs are being brought onto school grounds. This has the potential to increase the risk of injury to children and adults as direct or indirect contact with dogs can cause stress, allergic reactions, falls, scratches or bites and we cannot prevent dogs reacting adversely to unexpected noise and/or movement of children.

Therefore the Principal (with the endorsement of School Council) has decided that dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds. The exception to this policy is for dogs that assist people with disabilities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of "Dogs at School" policy is to support the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school; through the prevention of both direct and indirect contact with dogs.

RATIONALE

1. The school acknowledges that dogs on school grounds pose an avoidable risk of injury as some children and adults can find contact with dogs a health hazard and dogs can behave unpredictably leading to accidents.
2. This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the community and to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
3. Principals and school staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Dogs are not permitted within the Guthridge Primary School grounds at any time unless given approval by the Principal. The exception to this policy is for dogs that assist people with disabilities and for educational purposes as per below.
2. It is not permitted to tether a dog at the Guthridge Primary School boundary fence.
3. Owners must remain with their dogs outside the Guthridge Primary School boundaries, at all times.
4. The Principal may allow the use of dogs for educational purposes as per the following:
 - Visits by organized groups or programs, e.g. Responsible Pet Ownership
 - Visits by community owned dogs, e.g. for news items
 - Assistance dogs or Service dogs.
5. Where community members wish to bring their dog into the school for a particular event prior permission of the Principal is required.
6. Guthridge Primary School promotes the 'Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary School' to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed, for responsible pet ownership and animal care.
7. Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school will be reported immediately to the Wellington Shire Ranger for assistance in managing and removal from school grounds to ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Ratified by School Council and Principal - March 2019