



DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

RATIONALE

Liwara Catholic Primary School is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The purpose of this policy is to support the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school; through both direct and indirect contact with dogs. The school's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children have a fear of dogs and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds. This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners and/or handlers within the school grounds, excluding dogs specifically trained to enhance or support learning, mobility or disability.

AIMS

- To provide for the safety of students, toddlers and parents within the environment of the school grounds.
- While the school appreciates and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that other children and adults can find contact with dogs stressful.
- Dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and dog bites.
- This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the school community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
- Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dangerous dogs, dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity some of these matters are referenced in this policy.
- The Principal and school staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that the school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors.

IMPLEMENTATION

As the safety of our students, staff and community members is always our priority, dogs are not permitted within the school grounds at any time, including during the school holidays, unless approval has been given by the Principal or nominee.

- Dogs are not permitted to be inside a school building
- Dogs are not permitted at school events where Liwara Catholic Primary School students will be present – Sports Carnivals; Busy Bees; Family Nights; Family Events organised by the P&F on school grounds; School Concerts; School Fair; Parent Teacher Interviews; Learning Journey Nights; Open Nights.
- Dog owners are not permitted to tie their dog at the school boundary fence.
- Dog owners must remain with their dogs, outside the school boundaries, at all times.
- Dog owners are entirely responsible for the control of their dog around the school boundary fence area, which includes being on a lead, ensuring safe behaviour, and cleaning up any mess made by the dog.
- Any stray dogs in the school grounds will be immediately reported to the ranger for collection.