

# DOGS AT BRUNSWICK EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures Brunswick East Primary School (BEPS) has in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

## POLICY

### Assistance dogs

BEPS 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 (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 school to help them to participate in their educational program. BEPS 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 the Principal.

### Companion Dogs

School Council approved Companion dogs are permitted to work within Learning Communities and attend local school excursions, to help with educational outcomes and to improve student independence and wellbeing.

School council will be informed by the principal, where a companion dogs is required.

### Pet dogs

BEPS is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry. This is done in consultation with School Council.

We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside the school grounds, away from the gates, when attending BEPS for school events. Pet dogs are not permitted on excursions or school camps.

### Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at BEPS 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 the school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Drafted by	Brunswick East Primary School	Version Final
Principal signature		Scheduled review date March 2024