



DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

Rationale:

- Dogs on school grounds can pose a safety risk to children, staff, parents and other visitors.

Aims:

- To provide a safe school environment for all children, staff, parents and visitors by not allowing dogs to be taken onto the school grounds.

Implementation:

- Dogs are not allowed on the Dookie Primary School grounds.
- If a dog is found on school grounds with the owner the principal or staff will ask the owner to remove the dog from the premises.
- If a dog is found lost or roaming the school grounds without an owner present:
 - a) If the owner of the dog is known by the children, staff or community members the owner will be contacted to collect the dog
 - b) If the owner is not known, or the owner fails to collect the dog the Greater Shepparton City Council will be called so that animal control can collect the dog. Ph: 03 5832 9700
 - c) Children will be directed by staff not to approach a dog roaming the school grounds.
- No dog signs will be placed and maintained around the school entrances to inform the community of this policy.
- Students will have yearly lessons via the Pet Ownership program on safe behaviour around dogs.
- If a parent or child wishes to bring a dog or puppies onto the school to show students, prior permission must be granted from the child's teacher. Parents bringing dogs into the school are responsible and liable for the dog and its behaviour as stated below:

Under section 29 of the *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance Animals) Act 1994* the person 'in apparent control' of the dog at the time that a dog attacks or bites any person (or even if the dog 'rushes at or chases any person') is guilty of an offence, whether or not they are the owner of the dog. There are various penalties which can be imposed under the section, and a court may impose a requirement for the payment of compensation if a person is found guilty

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

March 2016