



## **DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY**

### **Brunswick South Primary School**

<b>Policy Implementation Date</b> July 2014	<b>Review Date</b> July 2018	<b>Responsible for Review</b> Policy Subcommittee
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### **Rationale**

This policy aims to ensure the safety and well being of all members of the Brunswick South Primary School community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many Brunswick South Primary School families, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience. The school also acknowledges other people can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

### **Aims**

This policy aims takes into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Brunswick South Primary School community, and also aims to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

To this end, the policy sets out a Code of Conduct for all families wishing to bring their dogs onto the school grounds. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of a dog means that dog is no longer permitted in the school grounds.

Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters are also covered in this policy.

### **Codes of Conduct**

All parents and other carers intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to this Code of Conduct, which states:

- All dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult at all times.
- Dogs' leads need to be held by adults only.
- Dogs may be tied up away from door entries on a short lead for brief periods of time (giving enough time to take a child into class).
- Dogs must be walked around the perimeter of the main playground when collecting children.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed inside any school buildings.

- Parents are responsible for cleaning up any soiling by their dog on or near the school grounds.
- Dogs are not allowed to drink directly from the school water fountains. Water can be provided to dogs from the water fountains using a brought container.
- When bringing dogs to the school, parents and carers do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no behavioural issues around other people or other dogs, has never displayed any aggression towards children, and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

The policy clarifies that dogs will not be allowed in classrooms or the rest of the school building unless on an explicitly arranged visit.

The policy also makes it clear that bringing dogs to school is a privilege to be enjoyed not a right. The school retains the right to direct that a dog is not to be brought into the school grounds at the Principal's discretion.

Complaints about a dog's or its carers' behaviour in breach of the Code of Conduct can be directed to the Principal.

Pets are an important part of our school community. Brunswick South Primary School is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.