



Dogs in the School Ground

Black Rock Primary School

Black Rock Primary School Policy Guide

Rationale:

Black Rock Primary School acknowledges the myriad benefits of pet ownership and walking to school. However, the school's priority is to ensure a safe and healthy school environment for students, staff and the community, including through both direct and indirect contact with dogs.

Objectives:

1. Provide for the safety and wellbeing of students, siblings, parents, teachers and visitors within the environment of the school premises.
2. Provide a healthy and safe environment in which the students can play and participate in sporting activities without risk of uncontrolled dogs or stepping or falling in dog excrement.
Maintain consistency with "best practice" in relation to Bayside City Council laws and guidelines applicable to dogs in parks and playgrounds.

Implementation:

1. Dogs must be kept on a short hand-held leash at all times within the school in line with Bayside City Council bylaws. <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/walking-your-dog-bayside>
2. No dogs are permitted on the oval between the hours of 7.15am – 6.15pm on school days or during organised activities.
3. Adults must be responsible for a dog on school premises at all times.
4. Dogs are not to be left unattended at any time or tied up to school boundary fencing or outside buildings
5. Dogs are not permitted inside school buildings unless permission has been granted for a special event.
6. Staff can request that dog owners remove their dog from the school grounds.
7. Dog owners must clean up and remove dog excrement from the school premises.
8. Dog owners are requested to carefully consider the risks involved in bringing a dog into an environment where there are around 600 young children, some of whom are unfamiliar and / or afraid of dogs.
9. Incidents involving a dog's inappropriate behaviour towards children, adults or other animals will be reported to the City of Bayside.
10. Black Rock Primary School promotes the Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary Schools to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed for responsible pet ownership and animal care.
11. This policy does not apply to registered dogs engaged to assist people with disabilities or learning support e.g. Reading Dogs.
12. Signs are erected at all gates clearly showing key points from above:
 - a. Dogs must be kept on a short leash at all times whilst on school premises.
 - b. Dogs are not allowed on the oval whilst school students are in attendance between 7.15am – 6.15pm or during an organised activity.
 - c. Dogs are not permitted on designated playground/play equipment areas.
 - d. Owners are responsible for cleaning up and removing any waste left by their dog.

Evaluation:

This policy will be evaluated by School Council prior to end of Term 4 2017 to determine if the incidence of dog excrement on school premises and inadequate control behaviours have reduced. If not, School Council will have no alternative other than to exclude dogs from the school grounds at all times.

July 2017

This policy was last ratified by School Council on