



## PETS AND ANIMALS AT SCHOOL POLICY

### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to pets attending our school grounds.

### POLICY

#### Assistance Dogs

Melba College 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. Melba College 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.

The decision to allow an assistance animal at Melba College rests with the Principal.

#### Pet Animals

Melba College is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry of any pet or animal.

Whilst Melba College understands that many families in our school community keep dogs, cats and a variety of other animals as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, **pet animals are not permitted on school grounds**, except with express permission of the Principal.

The Melba College community is diverse. There are students, staff and community members that are allergic to or uncomfortable around dogs, cats and a variety of other animal pets. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by many animals.

Whilst Melba College understands that many families in our school community keep animals as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pets to Melba College.

If a pet animal is brought to Melba College:

- we ask they be safely tethered outside school grounds if possible

- the animal must be restrained at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- the animal must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied.

Families with dogs or other animals that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour or jump may be asked to leave to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

The Principal has the Statutory Authority to prohibit dogs and other animals from school grounds to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community.

### **Stray dogs or other animals**

Unaccompanied or stray dogs or other animals sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the main Administration Office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog or other animals from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- **Melba College Duty of Care Policy**

### **EVALUATION**

<b>Policy Reviewed by School Council</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Policy</b>	<b>Next School Council Review</b>
2020	Assistant Principal – Accountabilities	2023