DOGS AT SCHOOL

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

Definitions

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A **stray dog** is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

A **wellbeing dog** is a dog that has been suitably trained to provide animal-assisted wellbeing programs under the control of his/her handler.

- For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy on PAL.

Pet dogs

Colac South West Primary School is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Dogs permitted with conditions:

Whilst Colac South West Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs 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 pet dog onto school grounds:

- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- pet dogs must remain outside the school grounds unless permitted by the principal
- families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.

The principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

Stray dogs

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

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Related policies including the *Duty of Care Policy* and *Visitor Policy* are available at the links below:

- http://colac-sw-ps.vic.edu.au/policies/
- http://colac-sw-ps.vic.edu.au/child-safety-standards/
- Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2026
Consultation	School Council – August 2026
Approved by	Xavier Davis, Principal - August 2026
Next scheduled review date	August 2030