

## HAMLIN BANKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY

#### PURPOSE

Student safety is an essential duty in schools. Having dogs on school grounds during school hours limits the capacity of the school to ensure student or community health and safety. For this reason, dogs are not permitted on school grounds unless the animal has been brought for a specific learning and teaching purpose.

#### GUIDELINES

**2.1.** Despite many people within the community having dogs as household pets, as much loved members of their family, not all people share their enthusiasm. Dogs have been known to attack children, and some people have a fear of dogs or are allergic to them.

**2.2.** The exception for these are dogs certified as Therapy Dogs, Disability Support Dogs or brought specifically for Teaching Pet Care by a qualified trainer or family dogs brought to school for a specific learning purpose, with notice given to students' families and on an owner's lead at all times.

**2.3.** Stray dogs in the yard are the clear target for this policy but the unpredictability of family pets in a school environment requires a blanket approach unless identified in 2.2.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

**3.1.** Dogs are prohibited from entering our school grounds and buildings as advised by 'No Dogs' signage erected at the entry point to the school.

**3.2.** Parents are asked, through this policy and by news sharing, not to tie or secure dogs to the school fence and anywhere they can be a concern to passersby or to people using the school gates or crossings.

**3.3.** Staff and parents are to be advised that all school events are dog free eg sporting carnivals etc

**3.4.** Parents are reminded through regular communication that that these rules also apply to small house dogs and puppies.

**3.5.** The Pets in Schools Program developed by the school will allow visits strictly controlled by the principal.

**3.6.** Parent notification of this program is essential and an alternative learning experience will be found for any student whose family request removal from that program.

**3.7.** Stray dogs wandering around the school yard must be brought to the attention of the principal/assistant principal, who will attempt to corral or enclose the dog in a safe place.

**3.8.** All children will be advised to leave the area and return to teaching spaces and staff supervision.

**3.9.** Staff will attempt to contact the owners if the dog is identifiable, or the local council for assistance with removal of the dog.

## **EVALUATION**

**4.1.** This policy is required to be formally minuted and reviewed by School Council annually.

**This policy was last reviewed by School Council in March 2017 and is due to be reviewed in March 2018**