



NORTHERN BAY COLLEGE Dogs in School Policy NBC047

1. PURPOSE

Student safety is an essential duty in schools. Having dogs on school grounds during school hours limits the capacity of the college 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.

2. BROAD 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, Wellbeing 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 owners 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.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. Dogs are prohibited from entering our school grounds and buildings as advised by 'No Dogs' signage erected at each 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 college 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 a campus will allow visits strictly controlled by the campus principal.
- 3.6. Parent notification of this program is essential and an alternative learning experience found for any student whose family request removal from that reason.
- 3.7. Stray dogs wandering around the school yard must be brought to the attention of the 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. College staff will attempt to contact the owners if the dog is identifiable, or the local council for assistance with removal of the dog.
- 3.10. NBC may at times engage in the Wellbeing Dogs program as part of the DET Mental health Fund:
 - Anytime that a 'new' dog is welcomed into the NBC Wellbeing Dog program details will be shared with College Council.
 - The college has engaged 'Dogs Connect' as the preferred provider of training. After an initial outlay there is an annual Accreditation Fee of \$770. This provides access to new resources and ongoing support.
 - This along with the required completed competencies will recognise the school as accredited with Dogs Connect.

4. EVALUATION

This policy is required to be formally minuted and reviewed by School Council as part of the three-year review cycle or when changes are made.

Document #	Committee Responsible	Review Date	Public Location
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