



St. Peter's Parish Primary School

Dog Management Policy

Purpose: To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the St Peter's community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many St Peter's families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school.

While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

St Peter's aims to introduce a policy that is fair to all parties and establishes clear guidelines concerning the presence of dogs in, and close to, the school grounds.

Dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in excited and/or crowded environments, sometimes leading to dog fights. Children too, behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and even dog bites.

The Dog Management Policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the St Peter's community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

To this end, the policy seeks to separate children from dogs in the school ground at the busiest (and noisiest) times, such as the start and end of the school day.

Existing City of Glen Eira by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters will also be dealt with in the school Dog Management Policy.

Regulations concerning dogs on St Peter's grounds are as follows:

- Dogs must be under control, and on-lead, at all times.
- Dogs can not be tied-up and/or left unattended at any time.
- Owners must pick-up, and appropriately dispose of, their dog's excrement.
- **Dogs are not allowed** in the immediate vicinity of the school crossing, entrances or school buildings between the times of **8.30am and 9.15am** and **3.15pm and 4.00pm**, from Monday to Friday, during the course of the school term.

St Peter's is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets, in a bid to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury. The presence of our specifically trained Therapy dog, Tito and Educational programs such as *Responsible Pet Ownership* both promote the relationship between people and their pets, and illustrate the school's acceptance and encouragement of pets as 'family members'.