

Purpose

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures *Mildura Senior College and Mildura English Language Centre (College)* has in place in relation to dogs attending College grounds.

Aims

- For the safety of students and staff to be the first priority at the College.
- For dog owners to carefully consider the risks involved in bringing a dog into an environment where there are students, some of whom are unfamiliar and/or afraid of dogs.
- For dog owners to carefully consider the necessity and risks of bringing a dog onto the College grounds.
- For dog owners to keep their dogs at home if there is any risk of their dog becoming aggressive at school towards humans or other dogs.

Policy

Assistance Dogs

The 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 College 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 (e.g. seeing eye dogs or assistance 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. The 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. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the College's Business Manager, ph: 03 5021 2911.

Pet Dogs

The College is not a public place, and our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to College grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Dogs Permitted with Conditions

Whilst the College 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 and visitors to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds:

- Pet dogs must be leashed during school hours (8:30am until 3:50pm) and in the control of a responsible adult.
- Pet dogs must be leashed outside of school hours when there is a scheduled/hire event, (such as Football and Cricket training), and in the control of a responsible adult.
- Dog owners are requested to leave dogs at home during school events, such as, parent teacher interviews, sports days, excursions and open days. Note: this is applicable to events during school hours and after school hours.
- Pet dogs must not be tied up on College grounds or left unaccompanied.
- Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.
- Dogs are not permitted to be inside College buildings (unless prior permission is granted by the Principal or nominee).
- Dog owners are requested to always be mindful that students are the first priority in a school environment and that some students are unfamiliar and/or afraid of dogs.

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- When bringing dogs to the school, dog owners do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no behavioural issues around other people or other dogs, has never displayed any aggression towards people (of all ages), and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.
- Dog owners must be familiar with their legal responsibilities and be aware that the College takes no responsibility for the behaviour or actions of their dogs.
- Staff can request that dog owners remove their dog from the school grounds.
- Incidents involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported by the College to Mildura Rural City Council.
- Dog owners must remove and dispose of dog excrement.
- Use of College facilities by community groups (e.g. dog obedience clubs) must have prior approval by the Principal and College Council, and all scheduled activities must be conducted outside of school hours. Community groups must comply with the above conditions and the conditions listed in their hire/lease agreement.

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 on College grounds should be reported immediately to Reception. School staff will contact municipal authorities (Mildura Rural City Council) and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from College grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- [Teaching with Animals](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)

The following College policies are also relevant to this policy:

- 1.12 Duty of Care Policy
- 1.21 Visitors Policy
- Use of College Facilities Policy

Review and Evaluation

<i>Ratified by:</i>	<i>College Council</i>	<i>Ratified date:</i>	<i>19.08.2020</i>
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<i>Principal Approval:</i>			

Date reviewed by College Council: 25.08.2020

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