

Lowther Hall

ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

All about the girl

Dog Policy

Date of last review:

2021

Review cycle:

3 yearly

Review and approval responsibility:

Executive

Category:

Buildings, Grounds and Facilities

VRQA required:

Yes

Locations:

O Drive, LowtherLink



1. RATIONALE

Lowther Hall is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The School's primary duty of care is to our students, staff and School community. Some children have a fear of dogs and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds. This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners and/or handlers within the school grounds, excluding dogs specifically trained to enhance or support learning, mobility or disability or dogs that are at school for approved therapeutic purposes.

2. AIMS OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 While the School appreciates animals as entities and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that some children and adults can find contact with dogs stressful. One of the aims of this policy is to minimise unmanaged exposure to dogs that can exacerbate anxiety or fear.
- 2.2 This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.
- 2.3 Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dangerous dogs, dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity some of these matters are referenced in this policy and it is an aim of the policy to complement these regulations.
- 2.4 Dogs can behave unpredictably when excited, and this can lead to accidents such as falls and dog bites. A core aim of the policy is to keep children and other members of the Lowther Hall community safe
- 2.5 The Principal and school staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors. This policy aims to facilitate that outcome by clarifying expectations.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 3.1 During school terms, in the event that dogs are on site, they must be:
 - with an adult owner at all times (never tied up to a pole/fence or in the control of a child)
 - on a leash
 - fitted with a muzzle
- 3.2 At other times (outside school terms) dogs on site should be:
 - with an adult owner at all times (never tied up to a pole/fence or in the control of a child)
 - on a leash
- 3.3 Exemptions to 3.1 and 3.2 are made when:
 - The dog is a specifically trained therapy or assistance dog and is in the care of the person with whom the dog usually works AND/OR
 - The dog is part of a law enforcement team AND/OR
 - The dog is part of a security operation at the School AND/OR
 - The dog is part of a school production AND/OR
 - The dog is part of a pre-arranged educational program AND/OR
 - The person in charge of the dog has the specific prior approval of the Principal
- 3.4 Community events typically have crowds of people which can be disconcerting for dogs and which can trigger unpredictable behaviour. There are often many young children present. At such events, dogs are not permitted on site unless they comply with the requirements set out in sections 3.1 and 3.2. This includes the Twilight Festival, Garden Party, concerts, picnics and off-site school events such as Athletic carnivals.
- 3.5 Lowther Hall promotes the 'Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary School' to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed, for responsible pet ownership and animal care.