



WHS Dogs at School Guidelines

for

**ST KIERAN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
MANLY VALE**





Dogs at School Guidelines

Overview

Under the Work Health Safety Act 2011, organisations, like schools and parishes, are required to identify and minimise any hazards and risks to the community.

Dogs are an important part of life for many families and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, but it also acknowledges that bringing dogs into a child-focused environment carries with it the risk of physical injury to children, no matter how friendly or well-controlled those dogs may be. Furthermore, having dogs on the school and parish grounds creates anxiety for some children who may find contact with dogs frightening. There may also be students who suffer from allergic reactions when in contact with animals.

Therefore, we ask the St Kieran's Manly Vale school and parish community to adhere to the following rules:

- No dogs or other pets are to be brought onto school or parish grounds
- Dogs must not be tied up around the entrances to the school/parish grounds where children may have to walk past them.

Exceptions

On occasions (such as a school endorsed Pet Day) permission to bring a dog to school must be obtained from the school principal at least 48 hours prior to the event.

If permission is approved, guidelines for the dog visit are as follows:

1. The dog must be kept on a short leash.
2. The leash must be held by adults only.
3. The dog must not be tied up and left unattended anywhere at school, even for a brief period of time.
4. The dog owner is responsible for any soiling by the dog on the school grounds.
5. Dog owners, when bringing dogs onto the grounds for a prearranged visit, do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression.

In implementing these guidelines it is to be noted that they are not a ban of dogs, but a responsibility of supervision placed clearly on the owners.

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