

## 1. Definitions

- 1.1 Assistance Dog – are working animals that are specifically trained to help people who are living with a physical disability to move around, do everyday activities and tasks, and be more independent. They are also referred to as ‘service dogs.’
- 1.2 Training Assistance Dogs – Dogs who are in training to become Assistance Dogs.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

## 3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy is for students, parents/carers, community members and staff members.

## 4. Policy

### 4.1 **Assistance Dogs (and Training Assistance Dogs):**

4.1.1 Coatesville Primary School 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 school principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

4.1.1.1 is trained or training to specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (eg seeing eye dogs); and

4.1.1.2 meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

4.1.2 We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Coatesville Primary School 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 school Principal.

### 4.2 **Pet Dogs:**

4.2.1 Whilst Coatesville Primary School 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, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

4.2.2 Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

4.2.3 Families that bring dogs to school pickup or drop off that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave the dog at home when transitioning their child.

#### 4.3 **Stray Dogs:**

- 4.3.1 Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

#### 5. Further Information and Resources

- 5.1 Duty of Care Policy

#### 6. Evaluation

- 6.1 This policy will be reviewed every three to four years as part of the school's regular policy review cycle.