

Document Title	Dogs on Campus Guideline
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PURPOSE

Westminster School has always been proud to share our grounds with the community around us. This has always extended to the pets of neighbouring properties and families of the children who attend the School.

With an increasing number of dogs being brought on to the School grounds, the purpose of this guideline is to provide clarity around the School's position as to when it is safe to bring dogs onto the School grounds and the conditions under which dogs may be allowed to walk/run around the oval.

DEFINITIONS

Assistance Dogs means a guide dog, hearing dog or disability dog as those terms are defined in the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995.

Effective Control means a person exercising effective control of a dog by:

- keeping safe in a vehicle
- means of a physical restraint; or
- command (verbal or non-verbal), the dog being in close proximity to the person, and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

Children's Playground means any enclosed area in which there is equipment, apparatus or other installed devices for the purpose of Children's play (or within 5 meters of such devices if there is no enclosed area).

REFERENCES

Dog & Cat Management Act 1995
City of Marion Dogs By-Law No.4, 2014

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure that the School continues to provide a safe environment for our students and that everyone can continue to use the School grounds for recreational purposes at times considered appropriate. Dog owners are asked to be mindful that some children can be scared and/or allergic to dogs so these guidelines have been formed in response to actual incidences, parent and student feedback:

1. From Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm in term times, when there are many students, staff and visitors moving around the campus, dogs are not to be walked or run in the School grounds. A dog brought into the grounds during these hours must remain under effective control by staying safe in a vehicle (Assistance dogs are an exception). Similarly, a campus resident's dog would be kept secured in a yard during these hours.

2. For all other hours, including weekends, school and public holidays, a person can walk and/or run a dog that remains under effective control. If there are still many people on campus, such as weekday/evening, weekend and holiday sport or events, a physical restraint is the expected means of effective control. At other times, when the campus is quieter, effective control by command is also allowed.
3. Unless determined by the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995 or the School has approved a specific arrangement, including the presence of assistance/therapy/law enforcement dogs or pets of campus residents, no dog is to be taken inside a School building, including classrooms, or be freely roaming within a children's playground or other areas where children or animals are likely to congregate.

Responsibility of Dog Owners

Further to the above, while dog owners are welcome to walk and/or run their dog around the Schools ovals outside of the times stated above, they must also:

- ensure their dog is effectively controlled at all times and comply with all signage and the School's rules while on School grounds;
- consider the risks associated with bringing their pets onto School grounds at any time and ensure that any person present, whether a Westminster student or visitor, will be safe from harm from their dog;
- be familiar with their legal responsibilities and be aware that the School takes no responsibility for the behaviour or actions of their dogs;
- not let their dog roam freely around children's playground equipment, other areas where children congregate or within the Boarding precinct (adjacent to the farm);
- not let their dog interfere with the animals on the farm, which includes chasing or using the animals as a training aid for the dog;
- pick-up and dispose of dog excrement - the School has provided waste bags around the oval to assist with the clean-up and disposal of waste.

Responsibility of Westminster Staff

All staff at Westminster have a responsibility to ensure the safety of students while in attendance on School grounds. Staff must:

- enforce these guidelines consistently across the School;
- request dog owners remove their dog(s) from School grounds if they are observed to not be complying with these guidelines;
- report repeated breaches of these guidelines by individuals to the Head of Preparatory or Senior School for consideration of further action; and
- maintain a safe environment for all staff and visitors to the School.

Any incident involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported to the City of Marion Council in accordance with the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995.