

DOGS AT THE KINDER POLICY

RATIONALE

This policy aims to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Woodridge Pre-school School community. Dogs are an important part of life for many Woodridge Pre-school School families, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from Pre-school. The Pre-school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience. The Pre-school also acknowledges other people can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

AIMS

This policy aims to take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Woodridge Pre-school community and also aims to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

To this end, the policy sets out a Code of Conduct for all families wishing to bring their dogs onto the Pre-school grounds. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct in respect of a dog means that dog is no longer permitted on the Pre-school grounds.

Existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog's excrement. For clarity these matters are also covered in this policy.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All parents and other carers intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to this Code of Conduct which states:

- All dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult at all times.
- Dogs lead needs to be held by adults only.
- Dogs may be tied up at the designated area located near the bench seat atop the stairs leading from the car park. This designated area ensures tethered dogs are away from door entries. Dogs must be on a short lead and tied up for a short period of time only (giving enough time to take a child into Pre-school).
- Dogs must be walked around the perimeter of the main veranda when dropping off and collecting children.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from the Pre-school are allowed inside the Pre-school buildings with the exception of seeing eye or other designated assistance dogs.
- Dogs are not permitted on the veranda or concourse leading into the Pre-school with the exception of seeing eye or other designated assistance dogs.
- Parents are responsible for cleaning up any soiling by their dog on or near the Pre-school grounds.

When bringing dogs to the Pre-school, parents and carers 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 children, and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

The policy clarifies that dogs will not be allowed inside the Pre-school or the rest of the Pre-school veranda unless on an explicitly arranged visit.

The policy also makes it clear that walking dogs to Pre-school is a privilege to be enjoyed not a right.

Complaints about a dog, or its carers, behaviour in breach of the Code of Conduct can be directed to the Committee President. Pets are an important part of our Pre-school community. Woodridge Pre-school is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Woodridge Pre-school on 16th July 2026.

REVIEW DATE: JULY 2029