

Dogs on School Grounds during school hours and events

The Ministry of Education requires that schools adhere to the National Administration Guidelines (NAGs). NAG 5 states that each board of trustees is required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students.

Having dogs on school grounds during school hours creates a potential risk that a child may be bitten or injured. Some students may also find contact with dogs stressful. A policy limiting the presence of dogs on school grounds is therefore being implemented.

Purpose

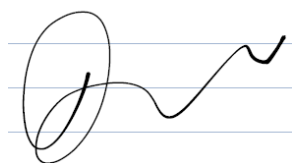
To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Dunsandel School community within the school grounds in regards to dogs. This will be done by providing clear guidelines intended to minimise the risk of accident or injury to people within the school grounds.

Background

Dogs are an important part of life for many Dunsandel School families and are therefore often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this and values pet ownership as an educational experience. However it also acknowledges that bringing dogs into a child focused environment creates a risk of physical injury to children no matter how friendly or well controlled the dog. Dogs on school grounds may also make some children anxious.

Guidelines

1. No dogs are to be brought onto school grounds between the hours of 8.00am and 4:00pm Monday – Friday, during school terms. The only exceptions being, 4,6 and 7 of this procedure.
2. Dogs must not be tied up within five metres of the main entrances to the school grounds.
3. Some school activities take place after regular school hours. Teaching staff may require a dog owner remove their dog from the school grounds if they determine it to be inappropriate that the dog is present on school grounds.
4. On occasion (for example a child may want to show their class a new puppy), a dog may be brought to school. Permission must be obtained from the classroom teacher at least one day prior to the event. If permission is granted the following guidelines must be adhered to:
 - The dog must be kept on a short leash.
 - The leash must be held by adults only.
 - The dog must not be tied up and left unattended anywhere at school, even for a brief period of time.
 - The dog owner is responsible for any soiling by the dog on the school grounds.
 - Dog owners will only be allowed to bring a dog for a prearranged visit if they are prepared to state that the dog is comfortable around children and has never displayed any aggression towards children. The dog owner will be required to give an undertaking that they believe that the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.
5. Dunsandel School is committed to helping children learn appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with dogs to help minimise the risk of accidents and injury.
6. Dogs are permitted at school during our Annual Country Day under our Country Day programme
7. Animal educational providers and Guide and Service Dogs are exempt from this policy.



Don Lough
Board Chair
22.8.17