

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

August 2015

Policy Statement

The Brisbane Catholic Education requires that schools provide and maintain occupational environments that are healthy and safe, for the wellbeing of employees, students in our care and volunteers.

This policy consists of two (2) parts

- Part One – Dogs on School Grounds
- Part Two – Other animals on School Grounds

Part One – Dogs on School Grounds

OLHC recognises that the presence of dogs on or near school grounds may represent a risk of injury to students, staff and visitors at the school. Having dogs on school grounds presents a potential risk of children being bitten or injured. This uncontrolled contact with dogs is also stressful for some students.

A 'no dogs on school grounds' policy has therefore been implemented.

Assistance animals (i.e. seeing eye dogs) are exempted from this policy.

Purpose

To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the OLHC School community within the school grounds, with regard to dogs, 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 OLHC School 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 grounds creates anxiety for those children who may find contact with dogs frightening.

Guidelines

1. No dogs are to be brought onto school grounds at any time.
2. Dogs must not be tied up around the main entrances to the school grounds where children may have to walk past them.
3. On occasion (such as a school endorsed Pet Day etc), permission to bring a dog to school must be obtained from the classroom teacher

and Principal at least 48 hours prior to the event. If permission is approved, guidelines for the dog visit are as follows:

- 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, 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 towards children and that they believe that the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

Part Two – Other animals on School Grounds

In addition to the above Part One, the school will also ensure that:

- If pets, other than dogs, are brought to school, then risks associated with that pet will have been discussed with and approved by the Principal.
- appropriate steps are implemented to minimise the risk of injury from swooping birds on or near school grounds;
- school grounds will be regularly checked for any infestation of dangerous or potentially dangerous insects such as spiders and wasps; appropriate pest control measures will be taken;
- appropriate first aid is given to, or other appropriate medical treatment is sought for, a person injured by an attack from an animal at school;
- in consultation with the student's parents or legal guardian, appropriate procedures are developed and implemented for responding to the immediate medical needs of a student known to suffer an allergic reaction when bitten by an insect, such as a bee;
- teachers and school staff are aware of, and trained in, the processes and procedures for responding to the needs of students and other staff who are victims of an animal attack;
- should it be required, counselling will be provided for victims of the animal attack.

Legislative or other Authority

Commonwealth Work Health and Safety 2011

Related Policy Documents

Brisbane Catholic Education OHS Policy

<http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/aboutus/catholicEducationCouncil/Documents/occupational-health.pdf>

Review Date

August 2018

Policy Custodian

Mrs Margaret Tomov; Principal; OLHC

Disclaimer: