



***Taking Students Beyond Expectations!***

## **Policy on: Dogs in School Grounds during school hours and events**

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### **Rationale**

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 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.

### **Purpose**

To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Matakana 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 Matakana 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 between the hours of 8am and 3:30pm Monday – Friday, during school terms.
2. Dogs must not be tied up around the main entrances to the school grounds where children may have to walk past them.
3. Dogs may be brought onto school grounds outside of these hours, but must be on a leash and supervised by an adult at all times.

4. Some school activities take place after regular school hours. Teaching staff may require a dog owner remove their dog from the school grounds, should they deem it inappropriate for a dog to be present on the school grounds during such an activity, e.g. Year 4 Camp.
5. On occasion (such as a child wanting to show their class a new puppy), permission to bring a dog to school must be obtained from the classroom teacher at least a day 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 is not allowed in the sandpit or on the barked areas surrounding the playgrounds.
  - The dog owner is responsible for any soiling by the dog on the school grounds.
  - The dog is not to be allowed to drink from the school water fountains.
  - Dog owners, when bringing dogs onto the grounds for a pre-arranged 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.
6. Pet Day and Dog Day continue to be an important part of the school calendar. Dog owners will be advised of specific guidelines for bringing dogs to such events prior to the event taking place
7. Matakana School is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching and interacting with all pets, in a bid to further minimise the risk of accidents and injury.

This policy is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1993

<b>Date Reviewed and Date of Next Review</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Signed – BOT Chair</b>
<b>15/11/2011</b>	<b>12 December 2011</b>	
<b>Nov 2014</b>		