

# Guildford Grammar School: Dogs on Campus Guideline



## Purpose

Guildford Grammar 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 and acceptable to bring dogs onto the campus and the conditions under which dogs may be allowed to walk/run around the ovals, and the river flats adjacent to the Swan River.

## Definitions

**Assistance Dogs** means a guide dog, hearing dog or disability dog as those terms are defined in the *Dog Act 1976 (WA)*.

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

- keeping it safe in a vehicle
- means of a physical restraint eg. collar and lead; 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 metres of such devices if there is no enclosed area).

## 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 appropriate times. Dog owners are asked to be mindful that some children can be scared and/or allergic to dogs; these guidelines have been developed in response to actual incidences, parent, staff and student feedback:

1. From Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm in term times, dogs are not to be present on School grounds (Assistance dogs are an exception). Parents collecting children from School are required to leave their dog safely in the car during these hours. Similarly, a campus resident's dog must 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 collar and lead are the expected means of effective control. At other times, when the campus is quieter, effective control by command is also allowed.

3. 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.
4. Assistance/therapy/law enforcement dogs or pets may enter the School premises when approval has been obtained by the relevant Head of School.
5. Approval for any animal to reside in School property is at the discretion of the Principal.

### Responsibility of Dog Owners

Further to the above, while dog owners are welcome to walk and/or run their dog around the School's ovals and river flats 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 Guildford Grammar School student or visitor, will be safe from harm from their dog;
- be familiar with their legal responsibilities and be aware that they alone are entirely responsible for the behaviour and actions of their dogs;
- not let their dog roam freely around children's playground equipment, the swimming pools, other areas where children congregate or within the Boarding precinct;
- pick-up and dispose of all dog excrement.

### Responsibility of Guildford Grammar School Staff

All staff at Guildford Grammar School have a responsibility to ensure the safety of students while in attendance on School grounds. Staff must maintain a safe environment for all staff and visitors to the School by:

- enforcing these guidelines consistently across the School;
- requesting dog owners remove their dog(s) from School grounds if they are observed to not be complying with these guidelines;
- reporting repeated breaches of these guidelines by individuals to the Head of Preparatory or Senior School for consideration of further action; and

Any incident involving dog bites or injuries to children, adults or other animals will be reported to the City of Swan Council.

### References

*Dog Act 1976 (WA)*

City of Swan Information on Dogs <https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/Services-support/Animals/Dogs>