



Guildford Grammar School

FOUNDED 1896

# Dogs on Campus

Guidelines

## Purpose

Guildford Grammar School is proud to share our grounds with the community. This has always extended to the pets of neighbouring properties, staff who live onsite and families of the children who attend the School.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide clarity on 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)*.

**Therapy Dogs** means a dog that provides wellbeing or mental health support to students and staff, approved by the Principal to work in this manner for a specific purpose or outcome.

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

- keeping it safe in a vehicle
- means of a physical restraint e.g. 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). Guildford Grammar School also has a number of water play areas which are considered a part of a Children's playground.

## Guidelines

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure that the School provides a safe environment for our students and that community members 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 thereby caution must be exercised at all times when bringing a dog onto campus.

1. Assistance dogs per the Dog Act 1976 (WA) may enter the School premises at any time without approval and under the effective control of a handler.
2. From Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 5:00 m, and Saturday 7:30am to 2:00pm in term times, dogs may be brought onto school grounds provided they are under the care and supervision of an adult where a collar/harness and lead are utilised as the expected means of effective control.
3. 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/ harness and lead are the expected means of effective control. At other times, when the campus is quieter, effective control by command is also allowed.
4. No dog, at any time, is to be taken inside a school building, including classrooms. Approved therapy dogs are the only exception to this.

5. No dog, at any time, is to be taken inside the fenced Early Learning area. Approved therapy dogs are the only exception to this.
6. A dog must always remain with the supervising adult and at no times be tied up and/or left unattended.
7. No dog is allowed within a children's playground or near playground equipment (inclusive of water play areas) or within the fenced area of the swimming pools.
8. No dog is allowed to freely roam in any areas that children congregate when off lead in the designated times stated above.
9. Dogs should only be exercised on the School 'back flats' ovals and surrounding areas and not on the main School Ovals (Roberts Oval, Collison Oval, Rugby Field and Hockey Fields).
10. Staff are not permitted to bring their dog to work unless it has been approved as a therapy or assistance dog by the School and approved to fulfil this function during pre-determined times by the Principal.
11. Law enforcement dogs may enter the School premises when approval has been obtained by the Principal.
12. Approval for any animal to reside in School property is at the discretion of the Principal.
13. It is acknowledged that the Boarding House is a 'home' environment for many students and staff, and as such, dogs owned by Boarding staff may be permitted in the Boarding House provided the dog is appropriately socialised, a risk management plan has been implemented to account for the needs of all students in residence, and approval has been sought by the Principal and the Director of Boarding.

## 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;
- ensure that their dog is monitored at all times and is always treated with appropriate care and respect for their safety and wellbeing;
- ensure that therapy or assistance dogs have a comfortable place to rest away from students, with access to water at all times;
- 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, staff member 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 in a children's playground or near playground equipment (inclusive of water play areas) or within the fenced area of the swimming pools. This applies when a dog is both on lead or roaming freely as per the designated times stated above;
- not let their dog roam freely in areas where children congregate when off lead in the designated times stated above;
- not exercise their dog on the main School ovals as outlined above;

- if there are many people on campus outside of normal school hours, such as weekday/evening, weekend and holiday sport or events, a collar/harness and lead are the expected means of effective control;
- pick-up and dispose of all dog excrement, ensuring that a 'dog pack' containing excrement bags, gloves and hand sanitiser is with the dog at all times;
- ensure that dogs are in general good health, clean, groomed, wormed and free of any parasites, such as fleas;
- remove their dog from the School grounds immediately if requested by a member of staff.

### 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 Deputy Principal - Operations for consideration of further action.

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-and-community/pets-and-animals/dogs>