

DOGS IN COLLEGE GROUNDS POLICY

What you need to know

- Mount Annan Christian College is committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, families, and visitors from the wider community within the grounds of the College.
- Direct and indirect contact with canines can cause issues so we need to be mindful of others when considering interactions with animals.
- It is the responsibility of all members of the College community to play an active part in ensuring that everyone enjoys a safe College environment.

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Vision Statement

To provide a Christ-centred learning environment that empowers each individual to enjoy a life of purpose.

Purpose

This policy seeks to establish the parameters for dogs being on College grounds. All students, staff, families, and visitors to the College have the right to feel safe whilst at the College. All members of the College community are responsible for playing an active part in ensuring that everyone is kept safe and that the expectations of the College are upheld and adhered to.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- promote a safe school environment
- ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school
- establish that both direct and indirect contact with dogs can cause issues so we need to be mindful of others in considering the presence of canines
- inform all stakeholders of the College's expectations regarding dogs being permitted on College grounds
- outline the exceptional circumstances in which dogs would be permitted in the College

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Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, families, and visitors to the College. It also pertains to specialised educational services who may use canines as part of a program; individuals with special needs who require trained assistance dogs; and family-owned pet dogs.

Policy implementation

Approval and Exceptions

Dogs are not permitted within the College grounds at any time unless given approval by the Headmaster. The exception to this policy is for dogs that assist people with disabilities.

College Boundaries

It is not permitted to tether a dog at the College boundary fence.

Owners must remain with their dogs, outside the College boundaries, at all times. Owners are entirely responsible for the dog's behaviour and for cleaning up any mess left by the dog.

Stray Dogs

Any stray dogs in the College grounds will be immediately reported to the ranger for collection.

Legislative Accountability

Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (1998) prohibits dogs on school grounds (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled) except where the Headmaster gives permission.

In general, the use of dogs for educational purposes in schools is limited to the following:

- Working dogs on the school farm
- Visits by organised groups or programs, e.g. Responsible Pet Ownership
- Visits by community-owned dogs, e.g. for news items, Assistance dogs, or Service dogs.

Dogs are not generally considered suitable animals for being housed at a school. For further information regarding this topic, please visit:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/animals-in-schools>

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Related policies and procedures

- Companion Animals Act (1998)
[Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 - NSW Legislation](#)
- Education Act (1990)
[Education Act 1990 No 8 - NSW Legislation](#)
- NSW Department of Education Animals in Schools
[Animals in Schools \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Primary Student Management Policy
- Secondary Student Management Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct