



## Statement of Practice - Animals in the School

### Related documents

[Animals in School Policy](#)

[School support dog plan and agreement](#)

### Statement of Practice

St John the Apostle Primary School is committed to following CEGE Policy and relevant ACT legislation regarding animals that may visit the school, or live on site. By upholding our requirements to relevant legislation, we can ensure that all animals at St John the Apostle Primary are treated ethically and that student and staff safety is considered at all times.

As of 2025, we are in the process of making relevant applications to the School Animal Ethics Committee for some classroom pets housed on site.

The overall responsibility for animal welfare rests with our principal Jo Reed, who is supported by Serae Love our Animal Welfare Liaison Officer.

The use of welfare support dogs and formally recognised Assistance Animals is covered by this Statement; however, other regulations also apply to them.

The following tables outline practices at St John the Apostle:

Purpose of animal	Responsible person	Specific action/s and details
Animals in the classroom for specific educational purposes.	Class teacher	<p>Seek permission from the Principal (or AWLO).</p> <p>Schools must apply to the ACT School Animal Ethics Committee for approval before sourcing animals for educational purposes. Refer to the information and guides in the <a href="#"><u>Care and Use of Animals in ACT Public Schools for Education Purposes Procedures</u></a>.</p> <p>Complete application, keep appropriate records, and manage all aspects for having live animals in the school.</p> <p>Liaise with AWLO</p>



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Oversee the care of animals in the school	AWLO	<p>Liaise with all staff hosting animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be aware of relevant guidelines for care.</li> <li>● Check on welfare of animals.</li> <li>● Check all plans are in place.</li> </ul>
Risk assessment and management plans are in place, including weekend/holiday care and during emergencies	Teacher(s) hosting the animal, with AWLO	<p>Completed for each animal or event</p> <p>Planes shared with AWLO, Principal, and the relevant teaching team.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● fearful children</li> <li>● known allergies</li> <li>● cultural sensitivities</li> </ul>
Complete reporting processes required in the ACT.	AWLO	Reporting yearly submission

### Assistance Animals

Assistance Animals are specially trained to help people with medical conditions and have right of public access to any place their owner is permitted

A working, recognised assistance animal	Pet Owner & Office Staff	<p>Be ready to show/view their identification or accreditation to the office upon arrival.</p> <p>The working animal has full access to the school to undertake their duties.</p> <p>Office staff to notify AWLO of the presence of an assistance animal</p>
A working, recognised assistance animal	AWLO	Be aware of students who have a fear or allergy and be prepared to vary the timetable to support them.



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Personally owned animals of staff, parents and visitors		
Bringing a pet for news, coming onto the grounds during the day eg: morning drop-off		
No animals on the grounds with parents/carers	Pet Owners, teachers on duty	<p>Pet owners are asked to wait outside the grounds or keep their pets in the car.</p> <p>Teachers are required to remind pet owners of this, and to move students away from any unauthorised animal.</p>
No animals on the grounds with parents	AWLO	Place a reminder in the school newsletter twice yearly of pets not to be on the grounds with students.
Seek permission from the principal to bring an animal onto the school grounds for a specific purpose (eg: news)	Pet Owner, Principal & AWLO	<p>The principal has discretion whether to allow an animal onto the grounds for a nominated purpose.</p> <p>Once permission is granted the animal must be caged or on a leash at all times.</p> <p>The pet owner must stay with the animal to look after its welfare and temperament.</p> <p>Students are fully supervised and guided by the teacher.</p> <p>Students have the option to not participate and should be guided to another activity or room.</p>