Rationale
Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) is part of a community where the benefits of pet ownership are valued. The school’s primary duty of care is to our students, staff and school community. Some children have a fear of dogs and students need to feel safe whilst on school grounds.

While the school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience, it also acknowledges that other children and adults can find contact with dogs stressful.

This policy outlines the responsibilities of dog owners and/or handlers within the school grounds, excluding dogs specifically trained to enhance or support learning, mobility or disability as approved by the principal.

AIM

- To reduce the likelihood of a dog behaving unpredictably which can lead to accidents such as falls and dog bites
- To meet the needs and expectations of all members of the community and also minimise the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds
- Meet the requirements of existing council by-laws already cover issues such as dangerous dogs, dog restraint and the need for owners to pick up their dog’s excrement. For clarity some of these matters are referenced in this policy
- Ensure the principals and school staff meet the duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that school grounds are safe for all staff, students and visitors.

Implementation

- The School is concerned with the safety of students, parents, staff and visitors at MEC. It is for these reasons that School Council has decided that dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds from 8:00am – 5.00pm on school days
- Dogs are also not permitted on school grounds outside of these hours during Principal approved events where MEC students will be present e.g. Working Bees, Twilight Sports, School Productions, Parent Teacher Interviews, Open Days/Nights and family nights
- Where community members, staff or students wish to bring their dog into the school for a particular event prior permission of the Principal is required
- MEC promotes the ‘Responsible Pet Ownership Program for Primary School’ to educate students in the knowledge and understanding needed, for responsible pet ownership and animal care
- When a dog is bought on site it is to be on a short leash at all times
- Other pets bought on site need to be appropriately caged or restrained
REFERENCES

- DET - School Policy and Advisory Guide:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on Wednesday 20th June 2018

Signed:

[Signature]

Paul Rumpff
School Council President