



Recognising Assistance Dogs

WHAT IS AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

- An Assistance Dog is a dog that has been trained in order to provide assistance to people or those with a certain medical condition. It is very different from your pet dog.
- Assistance Dogs are permitted by **law** to accompany their owner **in all public places**.
- Assistance Dogs are identifiable by a special **dog jacket or harness**. They will also wear an ID tag on their collar.
- School's policy is that Assistance Dogs accompanying a student to school **will be allowed** into all school buildings and facilities, including all teaching spaces.

WHAT TO DO WHEN AN ASSISTANCE DOG IS PRESENT?

- Always show the dog and their owner respect by providing space and giving them the right of way.
- Don't touch, feed, talk to, or otherwise distract the dog and don't be offended if the owner asks you not to pet the dog. The dog should be allowed to concentrate and perform its work for the safety of its handler.
- Recognise that the dog has a right to be present everywhere on school, even where you would not expect to see a dog, such as in a lift, canteen.
- If you are unfamiliar with dogs, be assured that an Assistance Dog presents no threat to you, or other students. They are highly trained, working dogs.
- Assistance Dogs are highly respected in the Australia.

SHOWING AN ASSISTANCE DOG PROPER RESPECT

- Failing to respect an Assistance Dog would be considered to be a serious issue that will be immediately followed up and dealt with.
- Confronting an Assistance Dog's owner about the presence of their dog or making derogatory comments about the dog could be considered harassment/bullying.
- Not following the rules and regulations, including harassment of an Assistance Dog or their owner could lead to the taking action and consequences to follow..