

	Dogs in Education Policy (Dogs Connect)	Endorsed by Principal March 2022
Information: 02 6076 1566	DET Schools Reference Guide: The Department’s Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): Dogs in School Duty of Care	Next review: March 2024 2 yearly Issue No: 1.0

RATIONALE

Dogs in Education can assist students with attendance, behaviour, social connection and emotional regulations.

They can help engage students in many curriculum areas by supporting children in feeling less self-conscious than they may feel around teachers and peers.

VISION

Together we empower all to learn and achieve with a sense of belonging and pride in self, school and community.

We will integrate our Wellbeing Dog into our school community so it can assist with trauma, anxiety, communication, awareness, leadership, behaviour, emotional regulation, resilience, sensory processing, stress management and emotional literacy.

BELIEFS

At Corryong College our vales drive us to:

- Have a duty to develop and model practices where teaching and learning can be linked to the love, care and connection of our school wellbeing dog.
- Draw on the skills and knowledge of the school wellbeing dog, Dogs Connect staff and the wider community and enter into practices that are mutually beneficial to all community members.
- Implement effective decision-making practices in collaboration with School Council, Dogs Connect staff, school staff and where appropriate the wider community.

AIM

We aim for the responsible implementation of a structured program through which a school wellbeing dog will be used to assist the school community in experiencing connectedness, developing links to learning throughout the school community, and helping to develop students who are socially adept, respectful and appreciate of diversity.

PRACTICES

This vision is enacted through the following procedures/systems:

- Reflection on current teaching and learning practices and student data.
- A thoroughly considered and gradually implemented program involving the school dog interacting with staff and students on many levels.
- Documentation and review of current risk assessment, agreed practice and implementation schedule.
- Alignment of Agreed Practice with current pedagogy and student/staff needs. Reflection and evaluation to guide future action/implementation to ensure suitability of all practices.
- Clearly signed notification that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, unless previously authorised.

EVALUATION

We will monitor the implementation of this policy by reviewing it every two years.

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://dogsconnect.net.au/>

Corryong College policies:

- Dogs in Education Risk Assessment
- Dogs in Education Agreed Practice
- Dogs at School
- Supervision and Duty of Care

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2022
Consultation	Dogs Connect School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Two yearly March 2024