

Dogs in Education Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the college 5996 3544 or cranbourne.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Rationale:

At Cranbourne Secondary College, we aim to develop empowered learners who grow, contribute meaningfully and enjoy life.

Vision

Empowered learners are lifelong learners. They increasingly influence and drive their own learning. They have the voice and agency that builds aspiration and the ability to translate it into action. Knowing how to learn, unlearn and relearn makes them 21st-century-ready.

Learning isn't just about accomplishment or success; it's about growth and the growth mindset that makes progress and improvement possible. It's only having grown that you can contribute.

Contributing meaningfully is purposeful, productive and powerful. There's nothing like it for building connections, boosting mental health, valuing community and growth in all its forms.

Enjoying life doesn't just happen. It relies on lifestyle choices informed by the holistic growth and maturity that recognises living well involves making your unique contribution to humanity.

Aim

We aim for the responsible implementation of a structured program through which a school wellbeing dog/s 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, just, and appreciative 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

Policy last reviewed	Term 4 2026
Next review date	Term 4 2027