



**DOGS CONNECT**  
RESTORING BALANCE

# Dogs in Education Policy

2/05/2023



**Together with Christ we serve our community.**

Inspired by GOSPEL VALUES and the practical examples of St Mary of The Cross MacKillop and St Clare of Assisi our Mission is to...

## CONNECT

by:

- Developing loving relationships that respect the diversity and dignity of all creation
- Exploring, understanding and celebrating our Faith, History and Tradition
- Sharing the wisdom of the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we live and learn.

## LEARN

by:

- Embracing personal growth and achievement through education
- Nurturing critical, creative, and reflective thinkers
- Developing resilience from positive thinking and problem-solving skills

## ASPIRE

To become

- our best self spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally
- an authentic person who makes a positive difference in the lives of others
- life-long learners

## RESPECT

Creation

- by showing loving concern for each and every person
- by respecting each of God's creatures and caring for the environment
- by celebrating our uniqueness

## ENGAGE

by:

- being open and prepared for new learning opportunities
- fostering respectful conversations that will lead to personal growth and wellbeing
- immersing ourselves in the Spiritual Life of the community

## Beliefs:

At St Clare's our values 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 dog.
- ✓ Draw on the skills and knowledge of the school, Dogs Connect staff, and the wider community and enter into practices that are mutually beneficial to all community members.





**DOGS CONNECT**  
RESTORING BALANCE

- ✓ Implement effective decision-making practices in collaboration with the School Executive, 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/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:

We will monitor the implementation of this Policy by:

- ✓ Reviewing in October 2024

