



Dogs at School Policy

Purpose:

To explain to our College community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our College grounds.

Scope:

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy](#) on PAL.

Policy:

Definitions:

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionship reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A **stray dog** is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

A **Wellbeing Dog**, or a dog from **Dogs Connect** are sometimes employed for specific wellbeing needs within the College. For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

Pet Dogs

Whilst Whittlesea Secondary College understands that many families in our College community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our College remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto College grounds for pickup or drop off:

- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of a responsible adult
- pet dogs must not be tied up on College grounds or left unaccompanied
- families that bring dogs to the College that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to leave.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from the College grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Whittlesea Secondary College staff, students and members of our College community at any time.

Stray Dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our College should be reported immediately to the General Office in person or via Ph. (03) 9719-1200.



College staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from the College grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at Whittlesea Secondary College.

Communication:

This policy will be communicated to our College community in the following ways:

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our College website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference via COMPASS
- Made available in hard copy from College administration upon request

Further Information and Resources:

Department of Education Policies: (PAL)

- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#)

Whittlesea Secondary College Policies:

- [Visitors Policy](#)
- [Duty of Care Policy](#)

Policy Review and Approval:

Policy last reviewed	March 2026
Consultation	Principal Executive
Policy approved	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2029