



# Dogs Connect Dogs Working in Education Policy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school on 54 617900.



**DOGS CONNECT**  
BRINGING LIFE TO LEARNING

## RATIONALE

Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) acknowledge that dogs working in educational organisations can help to improve student wellbeing and academic outcomes. This policy outlines the responsibilities of the school community in relation to dogs in education, including training, care and interaction. Whilst this school values dogs in education, it also acknowledges that specific care and procedures are necessary for this program to be successful.

At, MEC we believe that:

- We 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
- We must 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
- Effective decision-making is made in collaboration with the School Council, Dogs Connect staff, school staff and where appropriate the wider community.

## AIM

- To support the school vision and values.
- To implement a structure program with specially selected dog(s).
- Assist the school community in experiencing connectedness.
- Develop links to learning throughout the school community.
- To improve the social and emotional intelligence of students.
- Develop students who are socially adept, respectful, just, and appreciative of diversity.
- Reduce the likelihood of unsafe interactions between the school community and the dog(s).

## IMPLEMENTATION

- The dog(s) will have primary and secondary care givers.
- The dog(s) will have a timetable to follow throughout the school week.
- The dog(s) will have an initial training period.
- Staff, students and families will receive education on how to interact with the dog(s) during the training period.
- A risk assessment (Appendix B) will be created around the dog being in school.
- There will be planned sequences of lessons for some classes.
- There will be alignment of Agreed Practice (Appendix A) with current pedagogy and student/staff needs.
- There will be reflection and evaluation to guide future action/implementation to ensure sustainability of program.
- The school will inform the community of program and dog(s) through the local newspaper, social media and occasional visits to community places.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Dogs Working in Education - Agreed Practice

Appendix B – Dogs Onsite at MEC - Risk Assessment

## REFERENCE

Dogs on School Grounds Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022
Consultation	
Approved by	Anita Ford School Council President
Next scheduled review date	This policy was last updated on 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022 and is scheduled for review as part of the school's annual review cycle.

**Signed:**



**Anita Ford**  
**School Council President**

**Date** 21/6/2022