



# St Arnaud Secondary College

## DOGS AT ST ARNAUD SECONDARY COLLEGE



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact St Arnaud Secondary College on 03 5495 1811 or [st.arnaud.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:st.arnaud.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

### PURPOSE

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

#### **Wellbeing dogs**

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the [Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy](#) on PAL.

#### **Pet dogs**

St Arnaud Secondary College is not a public place, and our Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst St Arnaud Secondary College understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people who are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

### **Stray dogs**

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the Front Office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- Relevant School Policies:
  - *Duty of Care*
  - *Visitors*
- [Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL](#)

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	December 2028