

	Dogs in Education Agreed Practice (Dogs Connect)	Endorsed by Principal March 2022
Information: 02 6076 1566	DET Schools Reference Guide: The Department’s Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): Dogs in School Duty of Care	Next review: March 2024 2 yearly Issue No: 1.0

VISION

Together we empower all to learn and achieve with a sense of belonging and pride in self, school and community.

We will integrate our Wellbeing Dog into our school community so it can assist with trauma, anxiety, communication, awareness, leadership, behaviour, emotional regulation, resilience, sensory processing, stress management and emotional literacy.

INTRODUCTION

In alignment with the aims of our Dogs in Education policy, we agree to implement, manage and evaluate the practices and processes used so that we maintain safe and meaningful interactions between dogs and all other members of our school community. To achieve these standards we have the following agreements and practices in place.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERSHIP

- Ensure that all staff have access to and have had opportunities to read and review related policy
- Ensure communication with broader school community regarding related programs and processes
- Continue to assess, evaluate and implement actions as recommended through consulting specialists and school community

RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYEES

- Become familiar with the Dogs in Education policy and Agreed Practice documents
- Become familiar with **Risk Assessment document** and adhere to related recommendations
- Suggest amendments to above mentioned documents, if deemed necessary, through observation or reports from students or caregivers
- Become familiar with the [International Standards for Animals Assisted Education](#)
- Always ensure that students are actively supervised when interacting with the dog
- Demonstrate and explicitly teach safe interaction options to students – this refers to walking on lead, general interactions and sanitising after handling
- Always allow time for the dog to wake up, avoid sudden awakening
- The dog will always be led by attachment to lead when students and/or staff are walking with him/her unless deemed safe and appropriate by staff with responsibility for him/her
- People move slowly and in a predictable manner when walking with the dog on lead
- Consider that the dog needs to be in the classrooms and school buildings and make decision on where the dog can play, roll, run, frolic based on this consideration
- Be proactive when considering or having awareness of potential hazards or dangers to the dog – make decisions based on the priority being safety for the dog
- Exercise caution and base decisions about managing the dog during any given scenario on common sense and safety
- Never allow the dog to “feed” or have bones or similar in classroom or around students

EVALUATION

We will monitor the implementation of this Agreed Practice by:

- Re-reading annually
- Reviewing agreed practice every two years

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://dogsconnect.net.au/>

Corryong College policies:

- Dogs at School
- Supervision and Duty of Care

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2022
Consultation	Dogs Connect and School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Every two years March 2024