



**DOGS CONNECT**  
RESTORING BALANCE



# Dogs in Education Agreed Practice

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

**Introduction:** In alignment with the aims of our Dogs in School 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:





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## Responsibilities of Leadership

The responsibilities of leadership are as follows:

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





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## Responsibilities of Employees

The responsibilities of employees are as follows:

- ✓ Become **familiar with Dogs in School** 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 decisions 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 classrooms or around students.

## Evaluation:

We will monitor the implementation of this Agreed Practice by:

- ✓ Re-read annually
- ✓ Reviewing in October 2024