

<h1>Dogs at School Policy</h1>		 Glengala Primary School
No: 2019-POL-10	Version: 1.0	
Date: June 2019	Owner/s: Susie Rourke (Primary Welfare Officer) Samantha Fleming (Policy Leader)	

Purpose

To improve student academic and wellbeing outcomes including enhancing socialising skills, positive engagement with the school community and increase rates of attendance.

This is a pilot program at Glengala Primary School. The focus of this program is to improve student wellbeing through the use of a dog at school.

Why and how it will benefit students:

Australian research studies support the beneficial impacts that therapy dogs can have on children’s psychological development, linking better health outcomes with pets. Dogs can improve social skills and self-esteem in young people. Dogs can also teach students responsibility and compassion. Dogs in the classroom can be used to calm fears, relieve anxiety and teach skills. (Data adapted from the Australian Companion Animal Council)

Scope

This policy covers information pertinent to:

- Teaching and learning at Glengala Primary School
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Implementation

School Dog Identification: Labrador Retriever

DOB: March 2019

Name: Hugo Rourke

Immunisations:

Preventative Treatments: Worming Flea

About Hugo: Hugo is a young labrador retriever. Hugo is a fun-loving puppy who adores being around people. Hugo currently weighs about 8kgs but will continue to grow over the next 12 months, he will have an estimated full grown weight of 20kgs. Hugo is currently attending puppy school two days per week to assist him with his socialisation and basic training. Hugo loves to go for walks and chill out with pats, cuddles and naps. Hugo will undergo formal Therapy Dog training when he is 12months of age.

Context:

- The dog is owned By Wellbeing Coordinator Susie Rourke
- All vet costs and general expenses (food, leads etc) are paid by Susie Rourke
- The dog is a labrador retriever and has been chosen as the school dog as the breed is known for their calm and gentle temperament.
- Visitors to the school will be advised that there is a dog on site by admin staff.
- The dog will be introduced to the school slowly, spoken about before he arrives, taken around to visit each class for a few minutes during the day and begin only attending 1 or 2 days per week.
- The dog will be based with Susie in the Wellbeing Office but may be scheduled for some time in Learning Spaces upon agreement with learning space team leaders and teachers.
- The dog's primary focus will be to work with students who are identified as having the greatest need (students with additional social/emotional needs). The day will also include break times where Hugo can sit in a withdrawal space (in the Wellbeing Office).
- During lunch and snack students will be selected to assist Susie with taking the dog for walks around the school grounds or at the park next to the school.

Daily Management of Dog:

- Will not be allowed at school if unwell.
- Will be up to date with all vaccinations, grooming and worming.
- Will be kept on a lead when moving between learning spaces or outside on the yard
- Will be under the supervision of Susie or other designated staff member at all times.
- Will continue to be trained in obedience and pet therapy.
- Will not be taken off site without Wellbeing Coordinator.

Student Expectations:

- Will not be left alone with the dog without staff supervision.
- Will always be reminded to respect the dog and remain calm and in control
- Be gentle and not make sudden movements
- Ask before touching the dog
- Not to stare into the dog's eyes
- Not to put their face near the dog
- Always approach the Dog in a calm slow manner standing up
- Do not disturb the dog while eating, drinking or sleeping
- Never to feed dog
- Continue beneficial learning into the dog's development
- A dog pack to be carried by designated students containing; excrement bags, rubber gloves and hand sanitiser
- Designated students will wear vests to be identified as dog walkers at allocated times.
- All students will adhere to school values and respectful, responsible and safe around the dog.

Assessment and Reporting

The program will be evaluated regularly to assess whether the dog is having a positive impact on the wellbeing of students and assisting with achieving positive academic and social/emotional outcomes. Students who are engaging with the dog regularly will be monitored and the impacts recorded. This information will be analysed each term to report the progress and outcomes of the program.

[Related Policies and Guidelines](#)

Review of this [Name of Policy] Policy

History of Updates to Policy

Date	Comment (e.g. major review, minor review)
Creation of Policy June 2019	Written, community consultation undertaken, presented to School Council.
July 2019	Presented to school council. School Council accept the policy.

Review Date

This policy was presented to School Council in July 2019.
 This policy does not require approval from School Council.
 This policy does not require ratification.
 This policy is recommended for consultation.

This policy will be due for review in 2022/3 or earlier if required.

References