



Dogs in Education Policy



**DOGS CONNECT
MENTORSHIP**

February 2020

Rationale:

We acknowledge that we are a school community who strives to be the best that we can be. We share this responsibility with every member of our school community, both individually and collectively.

Beliefs:

At White Hills Primary School, we strive to be a community where students show:

- Respect: Thinking and acting in a way that shows others you care.
 - Aspire: Be your best, reach your goals.
 - Resilience: Being able to bounce back from challenges.
 - Responsibility: Doing what is expected and owning your actions.
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- We develop and model practices where teaching and learning can be linked to the love, care, and connection of our school dog.
 - We draw on the skills and knowledge of the school, Dogs Connect staff, and the wider community and enter 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:

We aim for the responsible implementation of a structured program through which a specially selected dog will be used to assist the school community in experiencing connectedness, developing links to learning throughout the school community, and help develop students who are socially adept, respectful, just, and appreciative of diversity.

Practices:

This vision is enacted through the following procedures/systems -

- Reflection on current teaching and learning practices and student data.
- A thoroughly considered and gradually implemented program involving the school dog interacting with staff and students on many levels.

- Documentation and review of current risk assessment, agreed practice, and implementation schedule.
- Alignment of Agreed Practice with current pedagogy and student/staff needs.
- Reflection and evaluation to guide future action/implementation to ensure sustainability of program.
- Clearly signed notification that dogs are not allowed on school grounds, unless previously authorised.

Evaluation:

We will monitor the implementation of this Policy by: Reviewing in June 2021