



DOGS CONNECT

BRINGING LIFE TO LEARNING

Dogs in Education Policy

July 2019

Rationale:

Wodonga South Primary School is proud of its community spirit; it's caring and nurturing for all, the team work between the staff, students, parents and School Council

Vision:

At Wodonga South Primary School, our future vision is:

To be a family based community of learning, which supports all members in a happy and safe environment. Respectful relationships are the basis of our school community.

Beliefs:

At Wodonga South Primary School, we believe that:

- We have a duty to develop and model practices where teaching and learning can be linked to the love, care, and connection of our school dog.
- We must draw on the skills and knowledge of the school, Dogs Connect staff, and the wider community and enter into practices that are mutually beneficial to all community members.
- Effective decision-making is made in collaboration with the School Council, Dogs Connect staff, and 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 2020