



# Dogs Connect Dogs Working in Education Agreed Practices



**DOGS CONNECT**  
BRINGING LIFE TO LEARNING

## INTRODUCTION

At Maryborough Education Centre (MEC):

- 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(s)
- We must draw on the skills and knowledge of the school and wider community and enter into practices that are mutually beneficial to all community members.

In alignment with the aims of our *Dogs in School Policy*, we agree to implement, manage, and evaluate the program and processes used to maintain safe and thorough 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 AND 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 clear and regular 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
- Ensure that processes and practices relating to safe behaviour around the school dog(s) are monitored and supervised at all times.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYEES

The responsibilities of employees are as follows:

- Become familiar with *Dogs in School Policy* and *Agreed Practices* 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
- Ensure that processes and practices relating to safe behaviour around the school dog(s) are monitored and supervised at all times.

## DAILY PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Staff will follow the guidelines below:

- Walk the dog(s) on your left-hand side
- Ensure that students will always be supervised when interacting with the dog(s)
- Be aware that the dog(s) should walk through doorways after people
- If engaging in play with the dog(s), ensure that the object of play is a toy and not a person (hand etc)
- Ensure that your classroom floor is free of hazards and foreign objects e.g., electrical cords, rubbish, stationary.
- Always give the dog(s) space, never corner, or surround the dog
- When walking past the dog(s), greet the person managing her as opposed to greeting the dog(s).

## EVALUATION

We will monitor the implementation of this Agreed Practice by:

- Re-reading annually
- Reviewing in 2023