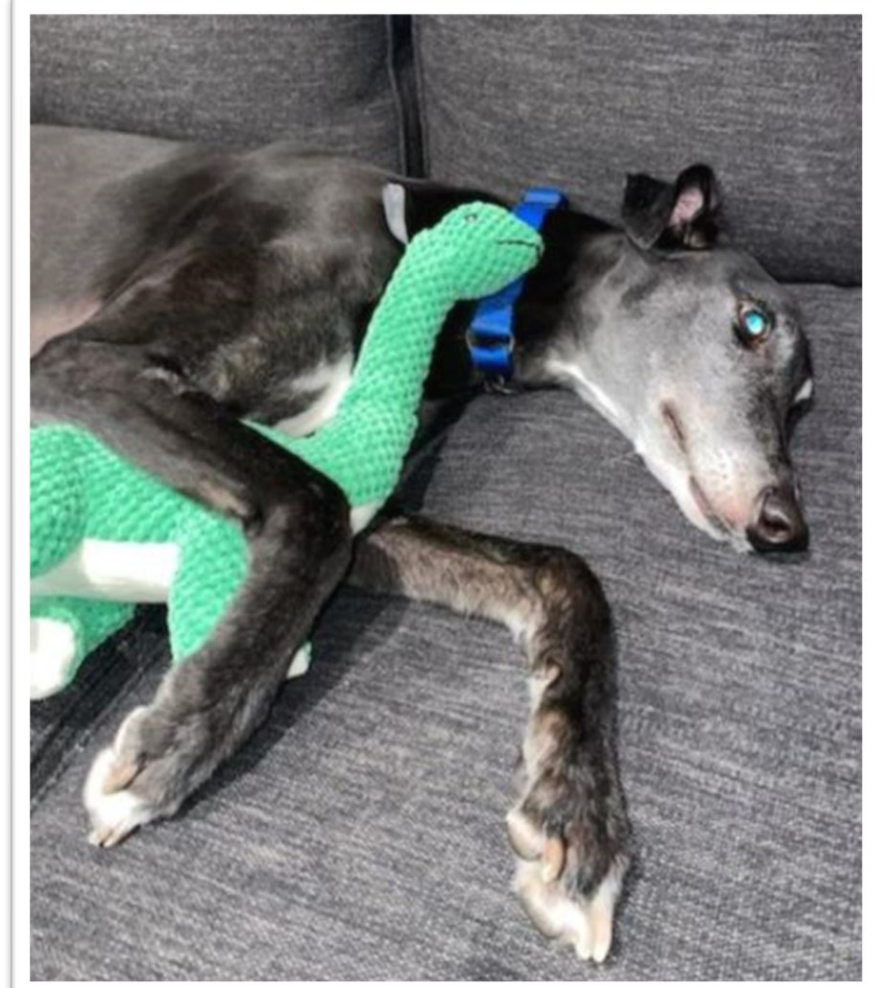


Dogs in Education Agreed Practice

13th February 2023



Vision:

At Pakenham Secondary College we foster our students to become independent life-long learners, encourage them to try new and exciting things, and to acknowledge and respect diversity.

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:

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 broader school community **regarding related programs and processes.**
- ✓ **Continue to assess, evaluate, and implement actions** as recommended through consulting specialists and school community

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 2024