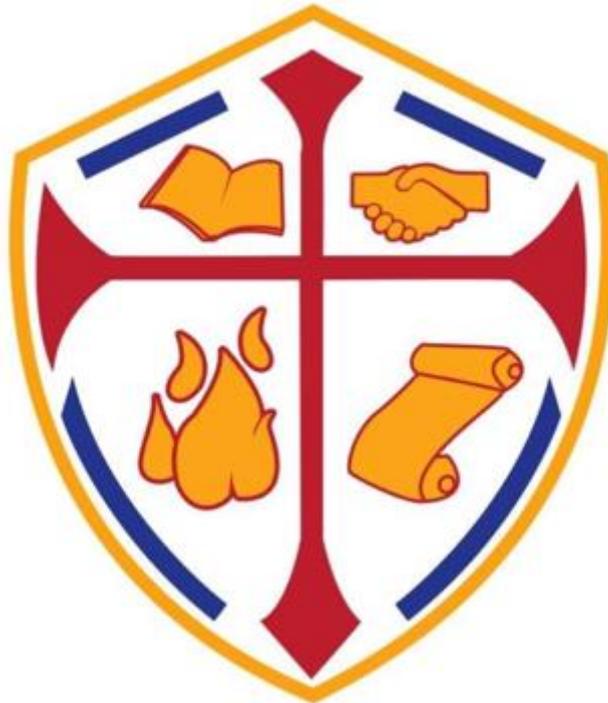




AllSaints
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

All Saints Catholic School



“We are all one in Christ, our mission and our responsibility is to recognize all individuals in our community as part of the body of Christ and to value them accordingly in our treatment of them, thriving and progressing in a spirit of togetherness”
(1 Cor. 12:29)

**Approved by
Chair of
Governor:**

Date:

Last reviewed on: September 2019

**Next review due
by:** September 2020



SCHOOL DOG POLICY

Relating to Australian Labradoodle ‘Max’

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(1 Cor. 12:29)

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the Governors in the Autumn Term 2019. This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher, the Governing Body and appropriate staff. The next review date is October 2020.



Introduction

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

Yes there is, though there are a variety of accidents, which can happen within the school environment which far exceed the number of injuries or incidents caused by a dog. Therefore, it is just another risk that needs to be managed. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out and this is published (see website). Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site at any time unless specifically *authorised by the Head Teacher*. This includes drop off and collection times. This policy outlines measures put in place to allow the school dog (Max) to be present.

School Policy

* The dog will be owned by Ms Cantle – Head Teacher.

- Only the school dog is allowed on the premises. All other dogs must not come on site unless they are a known therapy *or assistance dog* and the Head Teacher has been informed before hand.
- The dog is an Australian Labradoodle chosen because it is an intelligent breed that will respond well to training and which is known to be good with children, which sheds little hair and is very sociable and friendly as well as being a low level risk for those with allergies.
- The Chair of Governors and the governing board agree that a school dog will benefit the children and staff of All Saints Catholic School.
- Staff, parents and children have been informed by letter that a dog will be in school. A risk assessment has been formulated and this will be reviewed annually.
- All visitors will be informed on arrival that there is a dog in school.
- If the dog is ill he will not be allowed into school.
- The dog will be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk and will be under the full control and supervision of a trained adult.
- Children must never be left alone with the dog and there must be appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- Children will be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog. Children should remain calm around the dog. They should not make sudden movements and must never stare into a dog's eyes as this could be threatening for the dog. Children should not put their face near a dog and should always approach it standing up.
- Children should never go near or disturb the dog when sleeping or eating.
- Children must not be allowed to play roughly with the dog.
- Everyone must wait until school dog (Max) is sitting or lying down before touching or stroking him.
- If the dog is surrounded by a large number of children, the dog could become nervous and agitated. Therefore the adult in charge of the dog must ensure that s/he monitors the situation.
- Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or bearing of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog is displaying any of these warning signs he should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment.
- Children should not eat close to the dog.



- Children should be careful to stroke school dog (Max) on his body, chest, back and not by his face or top of head.
- Children should always wash their hands after handling school dog (Max)
- Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately and disposed of appropriately.
- Parents will be informed by letter about pupils accessing school dog (Max)
- The Damascus Suite / Inclusion Unit office will know the whereabouts of the dog and which staff are supervising school dog (Max) at all times.
- The dog will be included in the fire evacuation procedure under the supervision of the handler at the time.

Actions

If someone (internal/external) reports having an issue with the dog, this information must be passed to the Head Teacher or Deputy as soon as possible. All concerns will be responded to by the Head teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the school has a written policy for dogs in School.

The Head teacher is responsible for implementing this policy.

Teachers, staff, pupils, parents and visitors are required to abide by this policy.

The curriculum will support learning about dogs and how best to behave around our dog. This will include highlighting that not all dogs are well trained and that caution must be used around unknown dogs outside school.