# Dogs in Education Policy.

**12.7.2021**

**Rationale:**

At Echuca Twin Rivers School –

Mission:

To create a community learning environment, where everyone has the opportunity to learn to the best of their ability.

Vision:

* Engaged, confident, students who are motivated and excited to learn and who love learning.
* Positive, professional staff committed to sharing their passion for learning with the students and the wider community.
* Innovative curriculum that values diversity
* A community that values strong partnerships between home, school and community.
* A safe and stimulating learning environment which is creative and fun.

**Beliefs:**

At Echuca Twin Rivers School our values of:

***RESPECT***

We endeavour to be respectful of all members of our school community. We cooperate with others and we are honest, fair and open in the ways we interact. We support each other by being encouraging, listening attentively, giving assistance readily, and showing empathy and concern for each individual. We give and receive feedback with sincerity, and we commit to team decisions.

***RESPONSIBILITY***

We recognise our actions and make a positive difference.

***RESILIENCE***

At Echuca Twin Rivers we use challenges to strengthen our ability to cope with unexpected changes and challenges in life. We encourage creative expression, strive to be happy and work with a clear understanding of, and commitment to, diversity to enhance our capacity to deal with these challenges.

***INCLUSION***

At Echuca Twin Rivers School every stakeholder is considered and informed about what is going on and there is a sharing of ideas, resources and information with an acknowledgement of the success of each person. Everyone is encouraged to work at their personal best in a safe environment where everyone practices integrity.

***ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE***

At Echuca Twin Rivers we persist and try your best'. Academic Excellence is striving to attain your personal goals, persisting and giving your best effort.

Drive us to:

* 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.
* 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.
* Implement effective decision-making practices in collaboration with the School Executive, 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 school wellbeing dog/s will be used to assist the school community in experiencing connectedness, developing links to learning throughout the school community, and helping to 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 suitability of all practices.
* 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 July 2024.