Rationale:
- Dogs and other animals are popular pets, and at times wildlife, may enter the school grounds but require regulation and management to ensure the safety of the school community.
- Young children have under-developed judgement when it comes to approaching and handling animals.
- Some members of the school community experience anxiety or fear when an unfamiliar animal is present.

Aim
To provide a school environment, which is safe for students, is practical and balances the rights of individuals with the school’s duty of care toward all students, staff and community.

Implementation:

Planned visits of animals to the school grounds:
- All pet animals brought into the school grounds during school hours will be contained in a pet carrier or for larger animals on a lead.
- When making decisions regarding access of animals, consideration will be given to activities which enhance student learning within the areas of the curriculum. Safety considerations will be taken into account.
- All parents and community members will be made aware of these school rules and the safety reasons supporting them.
- Seeing-eye dogs and police dogs will have access to the school at all times.
- ‘Story Dog’ trained dogs will be permitted into designated school buildings under the supervision of their owners to carry out the story dog program.

Unplanned visits of animals to the school grounds:
- Domestic animals on the school grounds will be contained where it is safe to do so.
- Owners of domestic animals will be contacted to collect these animals if the owner is known. If reasonable attempts have been made to locate the owner, known or unknown, the local council will be contacted to take possession of the animal.
- Consideration of student safety will be taken into account when wildlife is found on the school grounds.
- Wildlife that is considered a threat to student safety will be assessed for the safest method of capture and removal; this may involve the shire council, specialist wildlife handlers such as snake catchers or the local vet. Children will be kept away from areas where dangerous wildlife are until the removal process has been completed.

Ratified in 2016
• Wildlife that is considered non-threatening and is in the ‘out of bounds’ areas such as the local endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots, will be undisturbed.

**Evaluation:**

The school environment is safe for the school community. The school community is aware that animals can only be taken into the school grounds during the school day with the permission of a member of the teaching staff and must be restrained in a carrier or on a lead at all times.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

**References:**

Nil