



Snoop Dog

2yr Pugalier

Snoop is owned by our Deputy Principal - Inclusion, Lara Collingwood. Lara and Snoop have completed Therapy Dog training with Positive Response Dog training (Delta training /organisation that trains Mater Hospital dogs).

Benefits to Wynnum State School

Based on research and knowledge of the school:

- Increase in student and staff wellbeing
- Increase in student emotional regulation (calming as a result of petting and sensory regulation)
- Behavioural support (eg for the dog to be in class, students need to be calm and follow teacher instruction)
- Emotional support for students who are in a state of heightened anxiety
- Increase in student attendance
- Transition support – into school, class, returning to class



Research - Benefits of Therapy Dogs in Schools

Therapy Dogs are being used to support children with social and emotional learning needs, which in turn can assist with literacy development.

Research into the effects of Therapy Dogs in schools is showing a range of benefits including:

- Decreases in learner anxiety behaviours
- Positive changes towards learning and improved motivation
- Enhanced relationships with peers and teachers
- Benefits linked to students with the following diagnosis/support needs – selective mutism (communicate with safe animal); ASD (forming and increasing social skills); attendance (students want to come to see the dog); emotional support (study showed reduction in high incidence behaviour referrals); sensory meltdowns (calming sensors and assisting with emotional regulation)
- Increased school (teacher and student) morale
- Increased positive behaviour.



Research Links

Courtney E. Zents, Amy K. Fisk & Cris W. Lauback (2017) Paws for Intervention: Perceptions About the Use of Dogs in Schools, *Journey of Creativity in Mental Health*, 12:1, 82-98, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15401383.2016.1189371>

V. Brelsford, K. Meints, N. R. Gee and K. Pfeffer (2017) Animal-Assisted Interventions in the Classroom – A Systematic Review, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 14, 669, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5551107/>

S. Chun & A. Leung (2014) Pilot Study Investigating the Role of Therapy Dogs in Facilitating Social Interaction among Children with Autism, Springer Science and Business Media, New York

M. O'Haire, S. McKenzie, A. Beck & V. Slaughter (2013) Social Behaviours Increase in Children with Autism in the Presence of Animals Compared to Toys, *School of Psychology*, UQ

M. Finn-Stevenson (2016) The Transformative Power of the Dog: The Growing Use of Canine Assistants in Therapeutic Interventions and School Settings, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 55:6

Dogs on School Grounds

While we love all dogs, only dogs that have approval from the Principal are allowed to enter school grounds. We adhere to the following policies that allow Snoop to come to school:

- The Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dog Act, 2009
- Department of Education - Assistance Animals and Support Animals in School Procedure
- Department of Education – Animals in Queensland State School Procedure
- Department of Education – Inclusive Education Policy

