1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To enrich the school environment
1.2 To promote responsible treatment of animals
1.3 To provide an alternate form of emotional support when students feel distressed or upset
1.4 To provide a teaching resource in a range of subject areas.

2.0 PRINCIPLES

2.1 Access to the dogs will be encouraged
2.2 The well being of school community members will be considered when using the dogs
2.3 The health and safety aspects of having dogs in the school will be considered at all times
2.4 The health and safety of the dogs and other animals (eg: lizard & birds) will be considered at all times.
2.5 Dogs in training for seeing eye dog program will be able to participate in school life.

3.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 That the dogs used in the program have been assessed by a qualified dog trainer as having a suitable temperament for working with children and in a school setting.
3.2 A trained PAWS coordinator will be responsible for the development of PAWS program and ensuring policy is followed
3.3 PAWS handler P.D. will be held annually and only teachers who have undertaken the P.D. will work with the dogs at school
3.4 School community members will be given the opportunity to indicate their concerns about the dogs and other animals’ presence in their working area - be it medical (allergy) or other personal (fear, distrust of dogs) reasons. (via annual parent/staff permission letter.)
3.5 The dogs will be on a leash during recess and lunch breaks.
3.6 Appropriate rest areas for the dogs will be allocated in consultation with staff
3.7 Appropriate hygiene practices are maintained at all times (hand washing, exclusion from eating area, correct toileting practice).
3.8 PAWS dogs will undergo regular veterinary checks and parasite treatment will be routine.
3.9 A budget will support the PAWS program where possible.
3.10 It is the responsibility of those staff using the animals in school to ensure that: When using animals in teaching, the school will comply with current legislation, including Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and its Regulations 2008, and the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes
3.11 The PAWS co-ordinator will review the PAWS plan annually and make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.