



Wellbeing Dog Behaviour Expectations

Approach, Introduce, Pat, Goodbye Method

This is a 4-step behaviour expectation when the St. Michael's wellbeing dog is working around the school.

1. Approach – Always walk slowly to the wellbeing dog and the handler. Leaving a classroom or jumping out of a class line are not responsible times to approach a dog. When students approach the wellbeing dog, they need to walk up slowly. This is especially important at recess or lunch where students run from place to place. Another part of this expectation is that the wellbeing dog can have up to three students with it. If there are already three students around the dog, students need to wait for someone to leave before they approach. Students are encouraged to approach the wellness dog from the front or side so as to not surprise the dog from behind.
2. Introduce - This is a key safety measure both for the dog and the students. Students must introduce themselves to the wellbeing dog before patting it by offering the back of their hand for the dog to sniff. If the dog is calm and friendly, then they can pat the dog (preferably by patting or scratching the chest area). This introduction style is a key safety measure when interacting with any dog.
3. Pat - Students will be encouraged to tell the dog to sit, so it is paying attention to them and is not surprised by having a small hand in its face. Students are encouraged, where possible, to kneel or lower themselves to the dog's level (not standing over the dog) and gently pat the dog's back or chest area in a downward motion.



4. Goodbye - This expectation has been added to keep a line moving. Sometimes, the dog may have a larger group of students who want to say hello. Since only three are allowed around it at a time, we set an expectation that saying hello to the dog is a quick process, if there are others present that would like a turn.

Other Expectations:

- All school community members must be aware of keeping external gates shut to ensure the wellness dog does not leave the school premises.
- All community members are asked not to feed the dog, especially for students to ensure they do not feed the dog any food items that may impact on the health of the dog.
- Students must put their rubbish in the bin to ensure the wellness dog does not eat food or packaging that may cause harm.
- Students must wash their hands after patting the wellness dog, especially prior to eating.

Activities on how to approach a dog (video and handbook)

RSPCA Video:

<https://youtu.be/tz3foX4skp4>