

Therapy Dog Commonly Asked Questions

My child has an allergy to some animals, how will you support them at school?

Chesney will be required to maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness through regular grooming, dog washing, as well as preventative health initiatives such as worming, vaccinations, and flea and tick prevention protocols.

Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper's room and the surrounds will be regularly vacuumed, and the carpets will be cleaned to minimise reactions due to allergies.

Interacting with Chesney is completely voluntary and arrangements will be made to isolate Chesney should your child not feel comfortable interacting with him while in the vicinity of Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper. Should your child need to interact with Guidance Counsellor an alternate location away from the Chesney can be requested.

I hear there are some illnesses which can be transferred between animals and dogs, is this true and could my child get sick if they interact with Chesney?

There are some illness which can be passed between humans and animals which are referred to as Zoonoses. Zoonoses are considered uncommon in Australia, and they can largely be prevented with appropriate health and hygiene protocols.

Chesney will be required to maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness through regular grooming, dog washing, as well as preventative health initiatives such as veterinary health checks, worming, vaccinations, and flea and tick prevention protocols. Students and staff will be encouraged to maintain high standards of personal hygiene including regular hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers. In addition, Chesney's environment will be kept clean throughout the day.

If you are still concerned about potential health issues, please note that interacting with Chesney is completely voluntary and arrangements will be made to isolate Chesney should you not feel comfortable interacting with him while visiting Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper..

I am concerned my child may be injured while interacting with Chesney

Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper and Chesney have completed specialised training to meet certification standards and ensure Chesney is suitable for participating in animal-assisted therapy within a school environment. Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper has demonstrated skills in reading canine body language to identify stress and has demonstrated their ability to safely handle Chesney to minimise risk of harm to others.

It is essential that all students and staff, follow the direction of the dog handler and follow the rules specified. These rules and directions are designed to support safe interactions.

Chesney will be under the direct supervision of Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper at all times, and managed through verbal commands, as well as a lead and a harness. Chesney will be removed from the interaction or environment if the handler believes this is necessary to support student and staff safety.

My child has a fear or phobia of dogs how will this be managed with Chesney?

Interacting with Chesney is completely voluntary and arrangements will be made to isolate Chesney should you not feel comfortable interacting with him while visiting Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper. Meetings can also take place in an alternate location if requested.

Chesney has completed specialised training with Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper to meet certification standards and ensure Chesney is suitable for working with children within a school environment. Some students will grow confidence in interacting with Chesney as they observe others and gradually get to know the dog's personality. Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper can assist through some graded exposure to support you to feel more comfortable if this is a goal you are wanting to achieve.

It is essential that your child lets Guidance Counsellor Deena Cooper or a teacher know of any fears or phobias so they can ensure your child is supported if they chooses to interact with Chesney. It is essential that all students and staff who choose to interact with Chesney follow the direction of the dog handler and follow the rules specified. These rules and directions are designed to support safe interactions. Chesney will be managed through verbal commands, as well as a lead and harness. Chesney will be removed from the interaction or environment if the handler believes this is necessary to support student and staff safety.