



COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Friendly Education for Families

Animal Ethics Policy 2017

Aims

- A. To comply with animal welfare guidelines for schools.
- B. To expose students to a wide variety of learning experiences.
- C. To care for animals kept at school:
 1. as pets
 2. for the purpose of achieving a specific educational aim.

Scope and Application

To facilitate appropriate care for animals kept at school. This policy applies to all members of the Association.

Definitions

- A. **Animal** - any live non-human vertebrate (that is, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals encompassing domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, livestock, wildlife) and cephalopods.
- B. **SAEC** - Schools Animal Ethics Committee.
- C. **The Code** - Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.
- D. **Scientific Purposes** - as defined by the Animal Welfare Act 2002, means acquiring, developing or demonstrating knowledge of techniques in a scientific discipline and includes teaching.

Principles

- A. We see value in contact with animals as a learning experience. We believe keeping pets is a learning experience in itself and from time to time we bring animals into the school to achieve a specific educational aim. For example, hatching chicken eggs and studying their growth, keeping yabbies as part of a pond life project, or bringing in animals to sketch for an art project.



COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Friendly Education for Families

- B. Schools need to comply with the *Animal Welfare Act (2002)* and the *National Health and Medical Research Council's Code for the care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, 8th Edition)*.
- C. *The Animal Welfare Act* requires that all use of animals for scientific purposes must be first approved by a properly constituted Animal Ethics Committee. Teaching is deemed to be a scientific purpose.
- D. SAEC is the nominated animal ethics committee for AISWA member schools. Applications for a license to use animals for scientific purposes (including teaching) and reporting will be made to SAEC. All activities, including projects, that involve the care and use of animals for scientific purposes must commence only after approval has been granted by SAEC.
- E. Respect for animals must underpin all decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. At all times we comply with the requirements of the *Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, in ethics and in deed.

Responsibilities

A. Council

1. Overseeing implementation of this policy
2. Review of policy and procedures

B. Coordinator

1. Applying for a licence for the use of animals
2. Ensuring submissions for the use of animals as part of the educational program are submitted by teachers within the correct timeframes
3. Ensuring that teachers adhere to the requirements of the Schools Animal Ethics Committee (SAEC) which, in turn, ensures compliance with the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*
4. Preparing the Annual Report and providing it to SAEC

C. Teachers

1. Submitting a proposal for the use of animals as part of their educational program as per SAEC guidelines and AISWA user manual (see reference), prior to due date
2. Provide justification for the use of animals
3. Responsibility for, and overseeing, projects involving animals at school and ensuring SAEC guidelines are followed at all times



COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Friendly Education for Families

4. Developing and maintaining all records required
5. Directing students in the care and treatment of animals at school

D. Students

1. Caring and treating all animals at school with respect, as directed by teachers

Related Legislation

- A. Animal Welfare Act 2002
- B. National Health and Medical Research Council's *Code for the care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, 8th Edition)*
- C. Education Act 2000

Related Kerry Street Documentation

- A. Animal Ethics Procedures
- B. Curriculum Policy
- C. OH&S policy
- D. Licence to use animals for scientific purposes

References

- A. DET School Animal Ethics Committee Guidelines for the care and use of animals in Western Australian schools available at <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/animalethics/detcms/portal/>
- B. National Health and Medical Research Council's *Code for the care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, 8th Edition)*.
- C. AISWA Animal Ethics Management System [USER MANUAL](#).
- D. [SAEC Online reporting system](#).
 1. Online forms
 - Animal ethics and egg hatching – Form A1
 - Animal usage records – Form B or Form C1
 - Animal use and health records - Form C1
 - Illness/injury, death or unexpected incident report – Form C2
 - Amendment Form

Contact Person

Enquiries relating to this policy should be directed to the School Coordinator or Council President.

Breaches of this Policy

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Authorisation and Review

- A. This policy was read, discussed and authorised by the Kerry Street Community School Council on 12/1/05.
- B. Reviewed on 13/1/06 by meeting of staff and council.
- C. Reviewed by Council and Coordinator March 2015.
- D. Reviewed and Accepted June 2017.
- E. To be reviewed February 2021.

Revision History

Date	Revision	Detail
22/04/2017	V1.1	Additions of missing Text, formatting, branding and revision history
12/06/2017	V1.2	Restructuring to separate principles and procedures. Addition of draft procedures for consideration.
28/06/2017	V1.3	<i>Helen Sugars Duff</i> Name changed from USE OF ANIMALS to ANIMAL ETHICS. Policy approved subject to final formatting edits as requested by Council. Procedures to be removed as an attachment and created as a standalone document.