



29 May 2023

Dear Parents/ Caregivers

RE: ROSIE - IMMANUEL'S THERAPY DOG

You might have noticed or heard a whisper around the school about a new staff member named Rosie.

Rosie is a 7-month-old, female Groodle. She is currently being trained to service the school as a Therapy-based Dog. Rosie was purchased through a very reputable breeder in Perth called 'Apache Park Groodles'. Rosie lives with the Hueppauff Family. Dwayne, Vicki, Aiden and Ollie Hueppauff are very involved in Rosie's training and play a very important role in getting Rosie ready to be a Therapy-Based Dog for Immanuel.

Before the decision was made to get a therapy dog, the school went through a thorough research period, weighing-up the pros and cons of having a dog at our school. In this process we considered; the concept and benefit of a therapy dog being used as an extra wellbeing tool in schools, researched multiple training organisations and visited schools with existing therapy dogs to see how they utilised their dog. The training organisation we have contracted to train Rosie and her handlers is Canine Assist.

There are 3 Immanuel staff members who will be Rosie's primary handlers and responsible for Rosie whilst she is on school grounds. These handlers have been trained specifically for this role. Rosie and the handlers will be taking on tasks like:

- Going into classes to have a calming effect.
- Working with individuals to provide support.
- Encouraging school attendance.
- Taking part in events.

As we learn as a school how to incorporate Rosie into school life, these tasks might grow and change in time.

Rosie's training thus far, has consisted of various activities which include:

- Decision making
 - Making the right choices.
 - Thinking for herself.
- Demonstrating calm behaviours.
- Eye contact and checking in with the handler.
- Keeping all 4 feet on the ground at all times and not jumping up



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As Rosie has only been training for a short while (since the beginning of this year), she still has a lot more to learn, but as expected, certain components of this training need to happen within the school environment for Rosie to be fully equipped to service us as a therapy-based dog. As such, in a few weeks time, Rosie will be going into all classes at various times. At this stage of her training, Rosie will be on a lead, at all times and wearing her 'working jacket' (which for Rosie signifies that she is 'at work' and in uniform).

For students who have a genuine fear of dogs, they can work together with the handler to assist in reducing these anxieties. If you would like one-on-one time for your child to overcome fears of dogs, then please let us know by email.

If you **do not** want your child interacting or taking part in lessons with Rosie, please let the school know by email to darylt@ilsg.sa.edu.au before Monday 12 June 2023.

If we receive no response from individuals within the 14 day timeline, it is understood that there are no objections to your child having contact with Rosie.

It is additionally worth noting:

- As part of Rosie being a Therapy Based Dog at Immanuel, she is also required to have full liability insurance.
- Groodles are a hypoallergenic breed, which is great for those children with allergies.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this further, please reach out and we'd love to chat to you about Rosie and the concept of Therapy Dogs in schools.

Yours sincerely

The Immanuel Staff Team