



Approach, Ask, Pat, Goodbye

This is a 4-step behaviour expectation when the Wellbeing Dog is working around the school.

- **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 know they need to wait for someone to leave before they approach.
- **Ask** - This is a key safety measure both for the dog and the students. Students must ask to pat the Wellbeing Dog and permission will be granted before they pat it. This ensures that the handler is aware of both the dog's behaviour and the students' actions. We discuss that people always need to ask the owner to pat the dog.
- **Pat** - For this expectation we discuss that the dog likes to smell a closed hand first and then get scratched under the chin. The dog will be in the sit or down position for greeting children. 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.
- **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 hi. Since only three are allowed around it at a time, we set an expectation that saying hi to the dog is a quick process, if there are others present that would like a turn.

Activities on how to approach a dog (video and handbook) <https://youtu.be/tz3foX4skp4>

