

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Introducing the Kids Hope Mentoring Program

Kids Hope is Australia's largest early intervention, school-based mentoring program. Since 2004, Kids Hope has impacted thousands of children who, through care and support, have seen their lives transformed and now experience increased confidence, resilience and joy.

The powerful one-to-one model positively impacts children as emotional and social development needs are met and learning capacity enhanced. High-quality training, structures and child-safe processes have flow-on benefits to mentors, classrooms, schools, families and communities.

Our volunteer-based model is easy for any church to deliver no matter the size, demographics or denomination. **The model is simple... One Child, One Mentor, One Hour a week. The impact... Immeasurable!**

Kids Hope is a registered [ChildSafe](#) program and aims to meet or exceed national mentoring benchmarks.

An evaluation by Griffith University concluded that, **'Kids Hope is reliable and easily implemented – the clear program of choice for many schools. It is valued by parents and, most importantly, it is making a difference to child wellbeing.'**

3 Simple Steps to Transforming Lives

1. A Kids Hope coordinator from a local church is selected and trained by Kids Hope to provide the school with all the support required to establish and sustain a wonderful mentoring experience for children selected by the school. This includes recruiting, screening and training of volunteer mentors.
2. The school assigns a contact person to liaise with the Kids Hope coordinator to carefully match mentors with children and help to set up one hour a week where a child is safely mentored in the line of sight of school staff during school hours. Activities are selected from the Kids Hope tool kit according to the age, stage, needs and interests of the child and enjoyed once a week with the child during the school term.
3. Mentors report weekly to the school on the progress of the child. The greatest evidence of progress, however, is seen in the children as they grow in confidence, resilience, and overall wellbeing. This often leads to more social and academic engagement and always brings joy and hope to the child!



This program changes lives and you will probably never know just how precious this gift is to our young people. – School Principal



Child Protection

Kids Hope is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children in the program. We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.



Visit kidshope.org.au/about-us/policy to view our child protection policy, or contact us on 03 9780 4823 or admin@kidshope.org.au for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the children selected for the program?

The process for selecting children for the program is at the discretion of each school. We recommend that the principals, teachers and wellbeing staff work together to come up with an appropriate selection procedure.

How is Parent or Guardian permission obtained?

The Kids Hope Coordinator from the partner church will provide a specifically designed consent form. The school sends this home to the child's parent or guardian to gain permission for their child to be involved in the program. This form can be copied onto your school letterhead. A parent information FAQ's document is also provided to send with the form. We recommend that the program is discussed with the parents or guardians before sending permission forms home.

How are the children matched with mentors?

It's exciting matching children with mentors. The Kids Hope church coordinator will work closely with the school contact to best match the mentors to children according to their interests, age, hobbies, preferences, and needs etc. The number of mentors the church can provide will determine how many kids are allocated a mentor.

Where do the mentors meet with the children?

Kids Hope mentors must mentor the child in an open, observable space. Therefore, we ask the school to provide suitable areas such as staffrooms, libraries or learning spaces for the mentoring hour. Schools can also allocate outdoor areas for sport, gardening or play and specialist spaces for activities such as cooking, art or computer related tasks.

Is there any religious content in the mentoring session?

There is no religious content or materials used during the mentoring hour. The focus is purely on the social, academic and emotional development of the child through the mentoring relationship.

How is the program evaluated?

Each mentor completes a 'Progress Report' at the end of each mentoring session. This feedback is useful to monitor improvement or challenges that need to be addressed. We also ask teachers to complete an end of year evaluation survey to provide Kids Hope with valuable data for us to continually improve the program.

What about confidentiality?

Kids Hope mentors are trained about the vital importance of confidentiality. The mentors are advised to report any concerns or signs of abuse directly to the teacher and/or principal and a state government representative, as soon as possible. They will be trained and aware of each state's legislation regarding mandatory reporting or other child related issues.

What happens when the mentoring finishes?

All mentoring relationships will come to an end at some stage. Some will end suddenly (e.g. child or mentor moves away) and some will be planned (e.g. child graduates from G6). Mentors are coached about the best ways to handle these situations and to make the closure as smooth as possible for the children.

