

## TEACHER INFORMATION

### Supporting the Kids Hope Mentoring Program

**Kids Hope is an early intervention, school-based mentoring program that has been operating in Australia since 2004.**

The program aims to **develop emotional and social resilience in children**, and so enhance their capacity to learn. The model is built on a long-term partnership between a local school and a local church.

**Carefully screened and trained mentors** from the church meet the children for one hour per week at the school. Mentors are trained to adhere to strict guidelines against using any religious content or materials during the mentoring hour. Over 20,000

children have been matched with mentors in primary schools all around Australia. **The results show that Kids Hope changes lives.**

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.'**

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



#### How does the program work?

One (or more) of the students in your class have been referred (by you, previous teachers, the Well-being Coordinator or the Principal) and matched with a Kids Hope mentor.

This child/mentor relationship may have already been established in previous years. Alternatively, the mentor and child might be meeting for the first time.

Either way, **some things are the same:**

The mentor will come to the class at **the same time on the same day each week**, as agreed between you and the mentor, to meet with your student.

The mentor and child leave the classroom and **meet in an area of the school** that has 'line of sight' and is observable to school staff (e.g. library, breakout spaces, staffroom).

The mentor and child decide together what they will do for the hour, which can include some academic work. **An hour later, the child is returned to the class.**

As the mentor leaves the school, they **complete a Progress Report** that summarises what they have done in the hour. This feedback can provide useful information about the child's progress and issues that need to be addressed. You are welcome to read this document.



**All kids need a little help, a little hope  
and somebody who believes in them.**

**Earvin 'Magic' Johnson**

## 10 Ways to support the Mentor/Child Relationship

**1** Provide the mentor with as much information as you deem relevant to assist them with establishing the relationship.

**2** Give the mentor feedback about how the child has been week-to-week or if there is anything they need to be aware of.

**3** If necessary, provide the mentor with resources for the hour.

**4** Please ensure the mentor can meet outside the classroom - the relationship between the child and mentor is important and they need to build that outside of the classroom space. Also remember the mentor is there only for the child rather than as a general classroom volunteer.

**5** Please let the mentor know if there are other ways they can be involved in special events for the child in the school environment (Eg. 'Star Student' awards, Graduation, Sports Day).

**6** Inform the mentor when there are other activities on the school calendar that would prevent them from mentoring (Eg. camps, sports days, excursions etc.).

**7** The mentoring hour should never be used as a form of discipline, reward or punishment. It is an 'unconditional gift' to the child. Damage can be caused to the child and the mentoring relationship, if it is used as a bargaining tool.

**8** Please appreciate them! Mentors are volunteers and come to your school because they believe in supporting and making an impact in the life of a child.

**9** It is consistent, faithful mentoring over time that makes a significant impact. Consider this as the mentoring relationship is getting established, sometimes it can take a while to notice any outcomes! Consequently, please keep the child with the same mentor each year instead of swapping mentor/child relationships around.

**10** Enjoy the benefits which mentoring brings!

## 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](http://kidshope.org.au/about-us/policy) to view our child protection policy, or contact us on 03 9780 4823 or [admin@kidshope.org.au](mailto:admin@kidshope.org.au) for more information.