



## Having a School Dog – Questions and Answers for Parents and Children

<p>How will the cost of the dog be funded?</p> <p>Should the school spend the money on something more important?</p>	<p>The majority of the costs of the dogs will be paid by the owner of the dog, who will pay for their medical bills, training, usual insurance etc. The dog is a family dog first and a school dog second.</p> <p>A small additional payment for school liability insurance will be paid for by the school.</p> <p>The main cost for the school will be a pen area inside and outside, though this will involve allocation of an area for sleeping and toileting away from the children's areas.</p> <p>The positive impact on children's health, well being and welfare means the minimal outlay for a school dog would be an important purchase for pastoral and welfare purposes.</p>
<p>How will it work having dogs in school?</p>	<p>For the first term, we will be working with the dog and children to make sure that the puppy feels safe and confident in the school setting. We will be producing a 'Doggy Dos and Don'ts' - a list of ways to behaviour around the dog that all involved with the dogs will follow. Our dog will be in school for 1 or 2 days a week initially until everyone feels safe and happy – including the dog!</p> <p>We will be asking for each child to have permission from their parents to be involved with the dog. No child without permission will be allowed to have contact with the dog.</p> <p>The dog will not be allowed to "roam around" school. It will have allocated times to be supporting children in school during the day.</p> <p>The children in small groups will meet with the dogs as an introduction and we will ensure that over the first term all children, that are allowed and would like to, are offered this.</p> <p>There will be a daily walk with child volunteers and with our Year 5 and Year 6 children who will be given the extra responsibility. Initially this will be supervised by Mrs Charles.</p> <p>The puppy will be completing their Kennel Club Bronze Puppy Training and hopefully starting their Silver course within the first term. There will also be adult training around dogs health and well being, and therapy work with children.</p> <p>Once they have completed the training we will begin more work with small groups or individual children. We also hope that eventually, our dog will regularly have stories read to them by the children on a rota basis.</p> <p>There are now a number of local schools that have school dogs and many across the country. We will be working with them to get advice and to share practice as the dog becomes more involved in school life.</p>
<p>My child is scared of or allergic to dogs or due to religious beliefs, I would not want my child to come</p>	<p>No child will interact with the dogs unless we have permission from the parents.</p> <p>If you would like us to help your child with their fear of dogs, we will work with you and help your child to feel safe.</p>

in contact with the dog	<p>Our proposed school dog is a miniature cockerpoo, which is recommended for an inquisitive but calm nature, and a non-shedding hypo-allergenic coat.</p> <p>Risk assessments will be completed supporting any interaction with the dog.</p>
Is there a risk of the dog biting my child?	<p>The dog will never be left with a child without an adult who will guide the sessions with the children.</p> <p>The dog lives with a family in a normal, noisy household with children so is used to noises, interaction and everything associated with every day family life. It will be trained to kennel club standards, and the handling adult will have received training in dog therapy and interactions.</p> <p>If there is any concern about the dog not being suitable to be around the children, they will not continue to be in the school. The children are our priority and their safety is paramount.</p>
How will we keep dog poo away from the children?	<p>The dog is fully “toilet trained”, and will have a special outdoor pen areas, which they will be taken to. They will not have free roam of the school. An adult will be responsible for picking up any ‘poo’ and disposing of it hygienically. No child will be able to do this.</p>
How will we ensure that wellbeing of the dog?	<p>We will ensure that the dog is well enough to be in school. If they are ill, they will not be in school. They will be under the care of a member of staff that will know them well and be able to spot any signs of distress. We will also develop a whole school approach to their care (Our Doggy Dos and Don’ts) We will seek advice from the other schools and we will have regular sessions with the Dog Trust. The dogs will have all their vaccinations and medical checks, as well as be regularly treated for worms and fleas, just as a normal family pet would.</p>
Who takes care of the dog when they are not at school?	<p>The dog is a family dog first, so will be safely at home with their family members whenever they are not at school.</p>
Will the teachers lose time teaching to be involved with the dog?	<p>The simple answer to this is No. The teachers will not be removed from class to work with the dogs. The children in their class and their learning is their priority and this will not change.</p> <p>The teachers will make sure that the children continue to concentrate on their work. Everyone who wants to/ is allowed to will have time with the dogs but it will not be so much that it affects learning time.</p>
What happens if the dog is seriously ill or dies?.	<p>Unfortunately that is one of the very sad aspects of having any pets. We will support the children as we always do with any bereavement, and we will let parents know so that the children can be supported at home. We would all work through this together as a school and a community.</p>
What happens if someone feeds the dog something that would upset them?	<p>Any feeding of the dog completed by the children MAY be the rewarding of a treat, and this will only be allowed if the adult feels the dog is happy to receive. The dog will not be allowed into the dining halls while children are eating.</p>
Does that mean we can bring our own dogs onto the school premises?	<p>Unfortunately, no. The school dog will need additional specific insurances and training that means they are allowed in school and on school premises, and these differ from the insurances available for family pets, so we will continue to not allow other dogs on to the school premises.</p>

