

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q

Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs?

A

The legal owner of the dog will be a nominated member of staff who has volunteered to care for the dog out of school hours and will bear the costs associated with it; the school budget will remain unaffected.

Q

Will the dog be a distraction?

A

The dog will be kept in the office area. The office is separate from the classrooms / playground area to ensure it only comes into contact with children who are happy to have contact, under strict supervision.

We will be careful to ensure that time spent with the school dog is shared among the children fairly. We will also ensure that children who do not have permission for direct contact with the dog are still able to participate in a number of ways.

Q

Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

A

Yes, we have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources, including other schools that successfully have a school dog.

Q

Who is responsible for training?

A

The nominated member of staff will be the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for its training. Appropriate professional training has been carried out and certification is available to review on request.

Q

How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?

A

In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted away from the school site where children have no access. **Thus there will be no chance of the children coming into contact with faeces.** Our policy of no dogs in the playground is still applicable as we are unable to put effective control measures in place that guarantee temperament and safety when children come into unsupervised contact with unknown dogs.

Q

Will the dog be allowed on the school playground?

A

The dog will not go onto the school playground unless on a lead and supervised by a member of staff.

Q

How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A

The dog will be walked every lunchtime. Parents will be able to give permission in advance to allow their child to be able to walk with a member of staff and the dog during that time. This will also be used as a behaviour reward, in line with our behaviour policy. The dog will be kept in the admin area/HT office and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. The dog will have unlimited access to food and water. We will work closely with other professionals to ensure the dog's welfare is always carefully considered.

Q

How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A

Children will not need to touch the dog, which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies.

Q

My child is frightened of dogs; how will you manage this?

A

Access to the dog is carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have close contact with it unless permission for this has been given. We hope to work closely with parents of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this.