



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for it?**

A. The legal owner of the dog is Mrs McCall who cares for the dog out of school hours and will bear the costs associated with it; the school will not pay for any of the additional costs that may incur as a result of the dog being in school.

**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 and have parental permission for this, 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, should they wish to do so.

**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. The school dog risk assessment will be available to view on the Website.

**Q. Who is responsible for training?**

A. Mrs McCall is the legal owner of the dog and as a result, is responsible for her training. As the dog settles in to school, she will be assessed to see if she would be suitable for Therapy Dog Training to work with children in school in a tailored way.

**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 off the school site. The school dog will always be under the supervision of a responsible adult in school, therefore if the school dog was to have an accident at school during puppy stages, it would be cleaned up immediately by an adult so there is no chance of the children coming into contact with faeces.

**Q. Are parents/carers allowed to bring their dogs onto school premises?**

A. No, 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. How will the dog's welfare be considered?**

A. The dog will be walked at 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 reward. The dog will be kept in the Head of School's office and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. The dog will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to water. We will work closely with other professionals, including Dog's Trust, to ensure the dog's welfare is always carefully considered.

**Q. How will this be managed where children have allergies?**

A. The dog is brushed regularly to reduce moulting, however, children will not need to touch the dog which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions however small. We already manage a number of allergies in 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. A workshop with The Dog's Trust have been in to work with all children to support how to be safe around dogs, especially those who are fearful.