

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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

A: The dog was purchased by Mrs Roberts and she is the legal owner; she will bear the costs associated with owning the dog.

Q: Is the dog be from a reputable breeder?

A: Yes. The dog is from a home where both parents were seen and was specifically chosen for its temperament.

Q: Will the dog be a distraction?

A: The dog will be kept in the reach for the stars room when working with pupils and will also have access to an outside area that is separate to children. The room/area is separate from the classrooms / playground to ensure Maddie only comes into contact with children who are happy to have contact and have parental permission for this, under strict supervision.

Q: Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

A: Yes, a full risk assessment is in place, which will be reviewed regularly. 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: Mrs Roberts will be the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for its training. If the school decide to seek further training (for example, reading therapy training, etc) then the school will responsible for this specific training.

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

A: In the interest of health and hygiene, the dog will be walked regularly to allow it to toilet as needed. The staff in charge of the dog will ensure that this is cleared away appropriately. If the school dog toilets when out on the school site, staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed.

Q: How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A: The dog will be walked regularly and given free time outside. The dog will have access to free space and 'alone time' if deemed necessary in a safe location. The dog will be carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to food and water. We will work carefully to ensure the dog's welfare is always considered and remove the dog from the school environment if we don't feel it is happy.

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 pupils 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. Any pupils with allergies to dogs will be built into the risk assessment as they are made known to the school.

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

A: Access to the dog will be carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have close contact with it if this has been expressed by parents. 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.

Q: Will other school dogs be allowed in school?

A: Allowing a dog onto the school site can only be approved by the Headteacher and for educational purposes. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.