

School Dog - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q Who is the legal owner of the dog?

A. The legal owner of the dog will be Mrs Taylor and the dog will live with her out of school hours.

Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder?

A. Yes. We have carried out lots of research and chosen a reputable breeder.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A. The dog will be kept in the office area. 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 are not involved in regular, direct contact with the dog are still able to participate in a number of ways, should they wish to do so.

Q: Will the dog be insured?

A. Yes. We will have public liability insurance in place from the moment our pup arrives and throughout its career as a school dog at St Paul's.

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. Once our puppy arrives, there will be a School Dog Policy available on the Website.

Q Who is responsible for training?

A. Our school dog and nominated staff members will be undertaking a rigorous accredited School Dog Training Programme which will be updated annually.

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 walked off site during the day and will have access to a sectioned off area of the school site where children may not enter. 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. Our school dog will also receive regular flea and worm treatments to ensure it remains a happy, healthy dog.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A. As the puppy grows he will be walked mornings and lunchtime by school staff. The dog will be kept in an office area 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 to ensure the dog's welfare is always carefully considered.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A. We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. The breed of dog has also been chosen for its hypoallergenic properties. 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 regular or 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.