



The Froebelian School

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 Mrs Stratford who will care for the dog out of school hours and will bear all the costs associated with it; the school budget will remain unaffected.

Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder?

A. Yes. We have researched and chosen a reputable breeder.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A. The dog will be kept in the Deputy Head's 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 Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

A. We have carefully considered having a dog in school and sought advice from many sources, including other schools that successfully have a school dog. There will be a School Dog Policy and Risk Assessment (agreed with our Health & Safety consultants) available to view on the website shortly.

Q Who is responsible for training?

A. Mrs Stratford will be the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for its training. Appropriate professional training will be obtained.

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 in a sectioned off area of the school site to which 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 How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A. The school dog will be extremely well looked after. She will live with Mrs Stratford and her family. She will be kept in the Deputy Head's office area and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. Whilst the dog is in school she will have access to the Deputy Head office area where she can relax during the day. This is where she will spend most of her time initially. The school dog will visit the vet regularly for all her injections as well as regular check-ups. If she is unwell for any reason she will stay at home with a dog-sitter! She 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 that her 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 who 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. She will also only be allowed in situations with pupils who voluntarily wish to work with her. Your permission will of course be sought in advance of the school dog having access to, and working with, your child in school.

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

A. The school dog will be carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have regular, close contact with her 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. Experience and research have shown that, with proper guidance and handling, children can learn to overcome their fear of animals and grow in respect and appreciation for them.

Q What if the dog becomes over excited and knocks my child over?

A. The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult. Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog and the dog will always be on a lead. We will have a risk assessment in place to deal with any situations that arise.