




School Dog Fact Sheet – Questions from Parents and Children

PARENTS' QUESTIONS	
<p>How will the cost of the dog be funded? Should the school spend the money on something more important?</p> 	<p>The costs of the dog will be paid by the owner of the dog. A member of staff is prepared to pay for the dog, their medical bills, insurance etc. The dog will be a family dog first and school dog second. All equipment has been purchased by the owner of the dog, and this will continue to be the case.</p> <p>There was no additional cost to add the school dog to Essex Local Authority's school liability insurance.</p> <p>Woody will be paid in affection, walks and treats (all resources and treats purchased by his owner.)</p>
<p>How will it work having a dog in school?</p> 	<p>For the first term, we will be working with the dog and children to make sure that the dog feels safe and confident in the school setting. We will be having an assembly with the 'Dogs Trust' and we will be producing a 'Doggy Dos and Don'ts' – a list of ways to behave around the dog that all involved with the dogs will follow.</p> <p>The children, in small groups, will meet with the dog as an introduction and we will ensure that over the first term all children that are allowed and would like to, are offered this.</p> <p>We also hope that from later in the term, the dog may regularly have stories read to them by the children on a rota basis. There are so many schools across the country which have introduced school dogs - including local schools such as Mayflower Primary, Chappel Primary, Stanway Fiveways, St Andrew's in Weeley (which has two school dogs.) We will be working with them to get advice and to share practice as our dog becomes more involved in school life.</p>
<p>My child is scared of or allergic to dogs or due to religious beliefs, I would not want my child to come in contact with the dogs.</p>	<p>No child will interact with the dog should you advise us of your wish to keep the dog away from your child. If you would like us to help your child with their fear of dogs, we will work with you and help your child to feel safe.</p> <p>We have chosen a breed of dog that is known for their friendly and gentle temperament as well as being low/non-shedding.</p> <p>For Cynophobia support, below is the name of a group in Brentwood, which has provided life changing support for people with a fear of dogs and it is all free. It is led by a great chap called Roy Dyer.</p> <p>Essex Dog Training Centre, Brentwood.</p> <p>Good article about what they do - https://www.dogworld.co.uk/product.php/117001/1785/cynophobia_classes_truly_inspirational_says_mayoress/</p> <p>And https://www.essexdogtrainingcentre.co.uk/CYNOPHOBIA</p> <p>Facebook - search for Roy Dyer - group Cynophobia Assistance Dogs - Essex Dog Training Centre</p>

<p>What if the dog bites my child?</p>	<p>The dog will never be left with a child without an adult who will guide the session with the children. The dog will be trained and if there is any concern about the dog not being suitable to be around the children, he will not continue to be in the school. The children are our priority and their safety is paramount.</p>
<p>How will we keep dog poo away from the children?</p>	<p>The dog will not have free roam of the school. Any adult working with the dog will be responsible for picking up any 'poo' and disposing of it properly. No child will be expected to do this.</p>
<p>How will we ensure the wellbeing of the dog?</p> 	<p>We will ensure that the dog is well enough to be in school. If the dog is ill, he will not be in school. He will be under the care of a small group of staff that will know him well and be able to spot any signs of distress. We will also develop a whole school approach to his care (Our Doggy Dos and Don'ts) We will seek advice from the other schools and we will have regular sessions with the Dog Trust. The dog will have all his vaccinations and will be regularly treated for worms and fleas.</p>
<p>Who takes care of the dog when he is not at school?</p>	<p>He is a family dog first, so will be safely at home with his owners whenever he is not at school.</p>
<p>Will teachers lose time teaching to be involved with the dogs?</p>	<p>The simple answer to this is No. The teachers will not be removed from class to work with the dog. The children's learning is the priority and this will not change.</p>
<p>CHILDREN'S WORRIES (Any different to the adults)</p>	
<p>Worried that they might die.</p>	<p>Unfortunately that is one of the very sad aspects of having any pets. We have fantastic staff and access to counsellors who will work with the children should this happen. We will let parents know so that the children can be supported at home. We will all work through this together as a school and a community.</p>
<p>Worried that children will hurt them by accident or that someone will upset the dog</p>	<p>We will all learn how to look after the dog and how to treat them. Everyone will have to follow the rules of our 'Doggy Dos and Don'ts.'</p>
<p>Worried that someone will feed the dog something that will upset their stomach.</p>	<p>Only the adults in charge of the dogs will feed them. Children will not be allowed to give the dog anything to eat.</p>
<p>Worried we might concentrate on the dog instead of our work.</p>	<p>The staff will make sure that children concentrate on their work when they need to. Everyone will have time with the dog but it will not be so much that it affects learning time.</p>