

School Wellbeing 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 is Mr Spence and he will care for the dog out of school hours and will bear the daily costs associated with it; the school budget will pay for the annual Pet Insurance. The school is covered under an independent insurance policy which covers Rufus being in our school.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A. The dog will be kept in an 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. 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. There is also a School Wellbeing Dog Policy available to view on the Website. A risk assessment has been carried out.

Q Who is responsible for training?

A. The nominated member of staff 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 where 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. Our dog will very much be considered as a 'working dog' and will have the appropriate training to be in school and be safe around children.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A. The dog 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. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents/carers 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, close contact with it unless permission for this has been given. We hope to work closely with parents/carers of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this.