



Newfield Primary School

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who in the legal owner

A. Ms. Clifford is the legal owner and cares for Poppy outside of school. She is responsible for Poppy's training and healthcare, etc.

Q. Is the dog from a reputable breeder?

A. Poppy is from a reputable breeder who specialises in breeding therapy dogs. She is a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Mini Poodle. This type of dog has a good temperament for working in a therapy setting because they are sociable and intelligent. Poppy loves being around humans!

Q. Will the dog be a distraction?

A. Poppy will generally be kept separate from the classrooms and playground whilst the children are there, although she may visit the classrooms on occasion and be in the playground for practise walks (when not being used by classes). Only children who have parental permission will spend time with her under strict supervision. We will be careful to ensure time spent with her will be shared fairly.

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 local schools that successfully have a school dog. There will be a School Dog Policy, available to view on the website.

Q. How will the dog/s welfare be considered?

A. Poppy will be walked at lunchtime; parents will be able to give permission in advance to allow their child to walk with a member of staff and the dog during that time. She will also have a 'safe space' where she can rest and will always have access to water. Poppy will also have at least one day during the school week when she is not at school to give her a chance to socialise with other dogs. Poppy has monthly flea and worm medication, regular vet checkups and is groomed every 6 weeks.

Q. What about children with allergies?

A. This breed of dog has been chosen for its hypoallergenic properties, however it is possible that some children may still have some kind of allergic reaction. This will be mitigated by the child in question not touching the dog or spending time in a confined area with the dog. Individual needs will always be met and we are more than happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place should they be required, as we do with all other types of allergies. All children will wash their hands after touching the dog.

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

A. Access to Poppy will be carefully managed and supervised. Children do not need to have close contact with her unless permission for this has been given. We want to work closely with parents of children who are fearful to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this. The permission slip has tick boxes to indicate that your child is frightened.

Q. I don't want my child to be licked by the dog. How will you manage this?

A. Poppy is in the process of being trained not to lick but she sometimes does, as this is how she shows affection. We will try hard to ensure that the children do not come into contact with saliva and will let you know if they have done so.

Q. Will the dog be in the lunch hall whilst the children are eating?

A. No, she will never be in the lunch hall while the children are eating.

Q. Will the children wash their hands after contact with the dog?

A. Yes, all children will be directed to wash their hands after touching the dog.

