



Christ Church Academy – School Dog!

Frequently Asked Questions







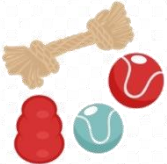
<p>Why are you getting a school dog?</p>	<p>For years, our pupils have been campaigning for a school pet and given the success of the animal care days we have held in school and all the research that we can find, we know that it will be great for wellbeing and happiness for both pupils and staff alongside helping to support learning in new and different ways!</p>
<p>Where will the dog be from?</p>	<p>We are really pleased to be adopting a female toy poodle puppy (born during March 2023) from a local rescue centre, as we feel it fits in with our Christian values and we are looking forward to supporting the Charity further in the future.</p>
<p>What if my child is allergic to dogs?</p> 	<p>Toy poodles are hypoallergenic which is a key characteristic for a lot of people, especially those who have bad allergies. Our dog will be groomed regularly.</p> <p>We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for those who are allergic to dogs. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional measures in place where needed.</p>
<p>What if my child is scared of dogs?</p>	<p>We understand that some people are scared or apprehensive around dogs. Access to our school dog will be carefully managed and supervised. We will be sending home consent forms in September 2023, so that we are fully aware of everybody's thoughts and needs.</p>
<p>Will my child have to come into contact with the dog?</p>	<p>Access to our school dog will be carefully managed and supervised. Children/adults will not need to have any contact with the dog unless they are keen to do so. If your child is happy to meet our school dog, there will be plenty of opportunities to say hello!</p>
<p>Will the dog roam freely around school?</p> 	<p>Absolutely not! Our dog will be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. She will also have her own bed in Mrs Thorn's office where she will have a quiet, safe space to escape the busyness of everyday school-life!</p> <p>The dog will be on its lead at all times when moving around school and when interacting with children. The only time the dog will be off her lead is when she is resting and sleeping in the offices.</p>
<p>Has a risk assessment been done?</p>	<p>Yes - a formal Risk Assessment has taken place with support from County Health & Safety advisors. 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 also be a School Dog Policy, available for parents to view on our website.</p>



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<p>How will the dog be trained?</p>	 <p>Mrs Thorn will be responsible for the dog training. Appropriate professional training will also be obtained; initially it will complete advanced puppy training and then work towards becoming a well-being and therapy dog.</p>
<p>Will the dog be a distraction to pupils' learning?</p>	<p>Our dog will primarily reside in Mrs Thorn's office. The dog will only come into contact with children who are happy to have contact with a dog under supervision. In the early stages, interaction with the children will be very limited as the dog settles into school life (but we will send you plenty of pup-dates!).</p>
<p>How will the dog's welfare be considered?</p>	<p>The dog will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. She will have food and unlimited access to water, a bed and some toys.</p>  <p>She will be carefully trained over a period of time and we will work very closely with other professionals to ensure her welfare is always carefully considered and she is safe and happy in school.</p>
<p>How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?</p>	 <p>In the interests of health and hygiene, the dog will be toileted either away from the school building in an area of the school where children don't access.</p>
<p>What about people visiting the school?</p>	<p>There will be a clear sign on the interior school front door that says there is a school dog on the school site and directs anyone with allergies or anxieties relating to dogs to inform the office immediately.</p> 
<p>Are other dogs allowed on the school site?</p>	<p>In order to maintain the integrity of Christ Church Academy's Dog Risk Assessment, only our school dog and registered disability assistance dogs are allowed on the school site except in very particular circumstances with the express permission of the Head of School e.g. for training or socialisation purposes.</p>
<p>Can we bring the dog gifts or treats?</p> 	<p>Our dog will have everything she needs and we don't want to spoil her too much, we are intending for her to be an exemplary member of our school.</p> <p>I am sure there will be times when she will be a little spoiled by all of us. If she does get any gifts we will ensure that she doesn't receive have them all at once!</p>