

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, the CEO of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust, Mrs C Gethin, has a dog called Ralph.

Ralph spent a year as a school dog in both of Mrs Gethin's previous schools and two years in the four trust schools as such has proven himself to be well behaved, house trained and excellent with the children - he is good at listening!

Whilst Ralph lives with Mrs Gethin in her office at Richard Crosse, as we move towards academisation, he will attend our schools when she visits and, she is keen for the children to be able to have experiences with him such as to bath or have a walk with him from time to time. Additionally, when planned in advance he can be supportive of mental health and wellbeing for both staff and children.

A full risk assessment has been completed. We have specialist insurance also which stipulates expectations regarding dogs in schools.

Children will be supervised at all times and expected to follow instructions from staff. Whilst every care is taken to prevent accidents, animals are unpredictable and injuries such as scratches or bites may occur despite careful choices and training. (He has never bitten and a scratch would be an accident when playing but, as sated animals can be unpredictable and this cannot be guaranteed).

Allergies, asthma, immune problems, and/or other health concerns which may make animal contact inappropriate for your child. Please indicate with clear detail whether your child has these allergies and, if your child can or cannot work with the dog or indeed if they can be in an area of school where a dog visits.

Thank you in advance and we cannot wait to welcome our new arrival in September.

Kind Regards

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**CHILDREN - DOG IN SCHOOL FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

My child has allergies to dogs – please complete details below.

My child cannot be in an area where the dog is and will not be able to work with Ralph.

Please give details, the extent of need i.e. can the dog enter your child's class?

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