

Folksworth Church of England Primary School

Our School Dog: Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who is the legal owner of the dog and who pays for its costs?

The legal owner of the dog will be Miss Norbury. She will bear the costs associated with owning the dog at home. The school's public liability insurance covers a school dog as long as stringent measures are in place including a robust risk assessment, the parental choice of accessing the dog for their child/children and a school dog policy which can be viewed on the school website.

Q Where is the dog from?

The dog comes from a local licensed breeder. She has been known to Miss Norbury since birth, certificate of lineage has been obtained. The dog is a Labrador who has a good temperament, intelligence and a short coat to try and reduce any fur allergies.

Q Has a risk assessment been undertaken?

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. Our Risk Assessment is also available on our website.

Q How will the dog be toileted to ensure hygiene for all?

In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted when taken out for walks outside of the grounds. Everything will be collected and responsibly disposed of by staff.

Q Will the dog be a distraction to pupils' learning?

The dog will be securely kept in the office area. She will have her own safe space within this area. To enable the dog to have more space to roam when she is not working, she will have free roaming of this area, when this is appropriate. The dog will only attend classes, assemblies, events etc on a planned basis and he will not become a distraction to learning. All dog socialisation will follow consultation with staff beforehand.

Q What if my child is scared of dogs? Will they be forced to be in the same room as the dog?

The dog will be kept in the office area and Miss Norbury will ensure the school dog only comes into contact with children who are happy to have contact with her and where there has been no refusal of permission by parents, this will be under strict supervision. A pupil will not be forced to be in contact with the dog at any time against their wishes. We hope to work closely with parents of children who are fearful of dogs to alleviate their fear and to teach them how to manage this using graded exposure.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

The dog's welfare will be carefully monitored. The dog will be walked regularly throughout the day and given free time outside of sessions to rest and play. The dog will have appropriate access to food, treats, water and toys. The dog will only be visiting school on a part-time basis.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

Children will not need to touch the dog or be in the same room as the dog at any point which will relieve the possibility of allergic reactions. 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 to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies. She will be regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.



'A cord of three strands is not easily broken.' Ecclesiastes 4:12
Inspiring a love of learning through the
bonds of family, faith and friendship.