

Further information and answers to any initial questions or concerns you may have :-

Safety around the dog

A risk assessment will be in place and available on the website.

The dog will always be accompanied by a member of staff on a lead if it is not in the office.. The dog will be based in the school office and if an adult isn't in the room it will be safely in its crate.

Children will only have supervised contact with the dog with an adult present. When moving around the school, the dog will always be on a lead.

Children will attend workshops and assemblies to teach them how to behave safely around a dog.

What about the children who have allergies around a dog?

The school has researched that one of the best breeds with regard to this is a Cockapoo, which is hypoallergenic, so that we will aim to cater for all children to be able to have contact with the dog. However, parents and staff will be asked to inform the school if their child is allergic and if so we will work with the family to ensure that the child does not have contact if this is their wish.

What about the children/ staff who have a fear of dogs?

One of the aims of introducing a dog into the school is to reduce the number of children who have a fear of dogs by teaching them how to care and behave safely around them. If a child has a fear of dogs we will ask parents to inform us of this so that we can be aware and work with the parents / child with advice and support to build up their confidence so that they feel safe . If a child does not wish to see the dog, they do not have to.

Health and well-being of the dog.

The dog will receive all vaccinations, be wormed, groomed and cared for.

Miss Radcliffe will have pet insurance to insure if it is ill, the dog will receive immediate medical attention.

If the dog were to be taken ill it would not attend school and would be cared for at home until it was fit to return to school.

Hygiene

There will be a designated area for the dog to be toilet trained which will be away from the children. In the early stages of training, the dog will be based in the school office so that if it did have an accident a member of staff who is happy to do so with suitable cleaning products would clear this up immediately. Only adults will deal with the dog's toileting.

If children have stroked the dog they will be taught to wash their hands afterwards.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions that have not be covered above. Thank you in advance for supporting us in introducing a school dog at Queensgate.