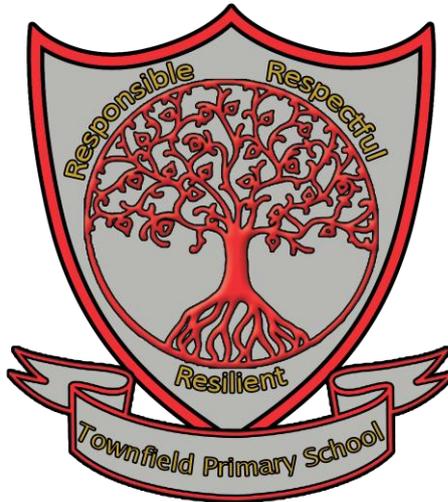


Townfield Primary School

School Dog Frequently Asked Questions



Q Who is the legal owner of the dog?

A. The legal owner of the dog will be Mrs Durham who will care for the dog out of school hours.

Q Is the dog from a reputable breeder?

A. Yes. We have researched breeders and have chosen a reputable breeder who has previously bred dogs to become school dogs and PAT dogs.

Q Will the dog be a distraction?

A. The dog will be kept in an office area. We will be careful to ensure that time spent with the school dog is shared among the children fairly. From observing school dogs in classrooms in other schools it is clear that the children become used to the dog being in the room and it actually supports a calm learning environment.

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 schools that successfully have a school dog. A School Dog Policy will be available to view on the Website.

Q Who is responsible for training?

Mabel has been trained by a reputable local trainer. The trainer has worked as a research associate in a university and is a member of both the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors and the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She continues to be a visiting lecturer in animal behaviour at Liverpool John Moores University.

Mabel has completed her "good Puppy" and "Good Dog" certificates.

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

A. In the interest of health and hygiene our school dog will be toileted in a sectioned off area of the school site where children have no access. Thus there will be no chance of the children coming into contact with faeces. Our policy of no dogs in the playground is still applicable as we are unable to put effective control measures in place that guarantee temperament and safety when children come into unsupervised contact with unknown dogs.

Q How will the dog's welfare be considered?

A. Mabel will be walked mornings and lunchtime by school staff and the children. The dog will be kept in an Office area and will only have planned and supervised contact with children and visitors. She has been carefully trained over a period of time and will have unlimited access to water. We will work closely with other professionals to ensure the dog's welfare is always carefully considered.

Q How will this be managed where children have allergies?

A. We already manage a number of allergies at school and this will be no different for children and adults that are allergic to dogs. The breed of dog has also been chosen for its hypoallergenic properties. Individual needs will always be met and we are happy to work with parents to put additional control measures in place for individual allergies.

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

A. Access to the dog is carefully managed and supervised and children do not need to have regular, close contact with it unless permission for this has been given. 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.

2019 when she joined TPS



"Mabel"



2021