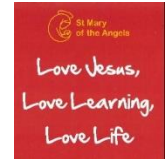


# Our School Dog



## 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 Hennessy. She will bear the costs associated with owning the dog at home; the school budget will support training costs and insurance. There is a school dog costings plan in place which identifies and sets out all therapy dog related costs. The school's public liability insurance covers a school therapy 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, a responsible owner trained alongside the dog and appropriate pet insurance.

### **Q Where is the dog from?**

The dog comes from Grange Labradoodles in Ashby-De-La-Zouch. He has been known to Miss Hennessy since birth, certificate of lineage has been obtained. The dog is a Labrador and poodle mix who has a good temperament, intelligence and a short coat to try and eliminate any fur allergies. He is also a hypoallergenic breed.

### **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 Who is responsible for training?**

Miss Hennessy will be the legal owner of the dog and as a result, will be responsible for his training. School will be funding the dog's training towards becoming the school therapy dog. Appropriate professional training will be obtained and the dog will work towards being trained as a therapy dog with Therapy Dog Training UK. This includes Miss Hennessy completing Therapy Dog Workshop 1 & 2 and Therapy dog undertaking temperament assessment and completing 1:1 training.

### **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 Community Room. He will have his own safe space with an appropriate dog crate. To enable the dog to have more space to roam when he is not working, he will have free roaming of the room, 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 socialization 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 Community Room and Miss Hennessy 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 be carefully trained over a period of time and will have appropriate access to food, treats, water and toys. Initially, 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. He will be regularly groomed to reduce any possibility of allergens.