








## School Dog Fact Sheet – for parents and children

<p>How will the cost of the dog be funded? Should the school spend the money on something more important?</p> 	<p>The main cost for the school will be to buy a set of essential equipment which will stay at school.</p> <p>Any training above what would be expected of a family dog will be paid for by the school, as well as any additional costs due to the dogs being in a 'work' environment.</p> <p>The school will be budgeting £300 per year for the dog.</p> <p>As a school we have made savings of over £200,000 due to the cuts from the government. This will not replace anything that has already been cut but for £300 we believe that it will bring joy and support to many children and staff which will be worth every penny spent.</p>
<p>How will it work having dogs in school?</p> 	<p>Initially Kermit will be introduced to the school setting. We will introduce him to the children in an assembly where we will share 'Doggy Do's' a list of ways to behave around the dog that all involved with him will follow.</p> <p>We will be asking for each child to have permission from their parents to be involved with Kermit. No child without permission will be allowed to have contact with him.</p> <p>The children in small groups will meet with Kermit as an introduction and we will ensure that over the first term all the children that are allowed to and would like to are offered this.</p> <p>There will be a daily walk with children and designated adult.</p> <p>Kermit will be in receipt of training provided by the Dogs Trust. Once he has completed this (and if we deem it necessary) he will be able to undertake special therapy training.</p> <p>On days when he is in school he will be at the school gate in the morning to 'meet and greet.'</p> <p>We hope that once he is fully established in school he will be able to have stories read to him regularly by the children on a rota basis.</p> <p>There are several schools in Hounslow that have school dogs and many across the country. We will be working with them to get advice and to share practice as Kermit becomes more involved in school life.</p> <p>Please click on this link to read why all schools should have a school dog : <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47655600">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47655600</a></p>

My child is scared of dogs.	<p>No child will interact with Kermit unless we have permission from the parents.</p> <p>If you would like us to help your child with their fear of dogs, we will work with you and help your child to feel safe.</p> <p>Cockapoos are known for their friendly and gentle temperament.</p>
What if the dog bites my child?	<p>Kermit will never be left alone with a child without an adult who will guide the session with the children.</p> <p>He will be trained and if there is any concern about him not being suitable to be around children he will not continue to be in school.</p> <p>The children are our priority and their safety is paramount.</p>
How will we keep dog poo away from children?	<p>Kermit will not have free roam of the school. Any adult working with him will be responsible for picking up any deposits and disposing of it properly. No child will be expected to do this.</p>
<p>How will we ensure that Kermit's well-being is considered?</p> 	<p>We will ensure that Kermit is well enough to be in school. He will be under the care of a small group of staff who will know him well and be able to spot any signs of distress. We have devised a whole school approach to his care (Our Doggy Do's). We will seek advice from other schools and we will have regular sessions with the Dog Trust.</p> <p>Kermit will have all his vaccinations and will be treated regularly for worms and fleas.</p>
<p>Will the teachers lose time teaching to be involved with the dog?</p> 	<p>The simple answer to this is no. The children in their class and their learning is the priority and this will not change.</p>
<p>What if he dies?</p> 	<p>Unfortunately, that is one of the very sad aspects of having pets. Hopefully Kermit will be with us for a few years yet but if anything did happen we would support the children as we always do with any bereavement. We have fantastic trained staff who will work with the children.</p> <p>We will let parents know so that the children can be supported at home.</p>
What if someone hurts or upsets the dog by accident?	<p>We will all learn how to look after Kermit and how to treat him. Everyone will follow the schools 'Doggy Do's'</p>
Who will feed the dog?	<p>Only the adults will feed Kermit. Children will not be allowed to give him anything to eat.</p>