

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We hope that the FAQs below will help to answer some of your questions and that you will join us in welcoming TJ and Maggie to Copperfield Primary Academy and embrace all that they can offer the school.

The school has a 'no dogs' policy.

Our school does have a 'no dogs' policy and dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school site. However, a risk assessment is in place for TJ and Maggie, and the school has a policy specifically for him. TJ and Maggie will be always on the lead when moving around the school property. They will always be accompanied by an adult who knows them well and children's time with him will be carefully monitored and supervised.

What will the school dog do on a day-to-day basis?

All children will have the opportunity to spend quality time with the dogs and learn how to care for them. They will also be available to calm unsettled children and walk around the school on a lead with a member of staff at appropriate times of the day so that they do not distract other children's learning. They will not be allowed to visit classrooms, thereby keeping the school safe and comfortable for those children with phobias or dog allergies.

Safety around the dog

Insurance will cover having a dog on site.

If the Head is at a meeting, there will be several designated staff who have agreed to have the responsibility to support the dog in his absence, alternatively, the dogs will not attend school during that time. Children will only have contact with the dogs under the supervision of an adult. When moving around the school, the dog will be on a lead.

What about the children who have allergies to a dog?

Greyhounds have very short fur and therefore not prone to trigger any allergies.

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 doesn't have contact with him if this is their wish. Furthermore, the dogs will not be allowed in classrooms, ensuring that children can avoid seeing/having contact with the dogs if they prefer.

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 for 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 to build up their confidence so that they feel safe. However, the dogs will not be allowed in classrooms, ensuring that children can avoid seeing/having contact with the dogs if they prefer.

Health and well-being of the dog.

TJ and Maggie will receive all vaccinations, wormed, groomed, and cared for. The Head (the owner of the dog) will have pet insurance to ensure that if they are ill the dogs will receive immediate medical attention.

Hygiene

There will be a designated area for the dog to toilet if necessary which will be away from the children at the front of the school site. The named staff in charge of the dog will ensure that this is cleared away appropriately. If the school dogs' toilets when out on the school site, staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground and cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed. If children have stroked the dog, they will be taught to wash/sanitise their hands afterwards.

Further reading:

<https://therapypartners.co.uk/therapy-dogs>

<https://www.certapet.com/greyhound-service-dog/>

<https://www.emotionalpetsupport.com/greyhound-as-a-service-animal/>