



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 Joey to Downsview and embrace all that he can offer the school.

More information about his progress will be in future newsletters.

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, there is a risk assessment in place for Joey and the school has a policy specifically for him. Joey is undergoing puppy training and will be on a lead or under control at all times when moving around the school property. He will always be accompanied by an adult who knows him 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 over time to have quality time with the dog and learn how to care for him. He will also be available to calm unsettled children, walk around the school on a lead with the Head/ member of staff at appropriate times of the day so that he isn't a distraction to children's learning. At some point, he will be going out on a lunchtime for a walk at the local park with a member of staff and small group of children. He will attend classes to support their learning, where appropriate e.g. to writing instructions if learning about how to care for a pet etc. In the future, Joey may be trained to sit and listen to children read.

Safety around the dog

Insurance will cover having a dog on site.

If the Head is at a meeting, there will be a number of designated staff who have agreed to have responsibility to support the dog in her absence or he will not attend school during that time. Children will only have contact with the dog with a supervised adult. When moving around the school, the dog will be under strict control or on a lead.

What about the children who have allergies around a dog?

After extensive research, one of the best breeds of dog to combat allergies is a breed which is mixed with a poodle. Joey is a Cockapoo a mixed-breed dog that is the cross between Cocker Spaniel and a poodle, which makes him hypoallergenic. It also makes him very sociable, well-tempered and clever. In this way, 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 doesn't have contact with him if this is their wish.

What about the children/ staff who have a fear for 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.

Health and well-being of the dog.

Joey will receive all vaccinations, be wormed, groomed and cared for. The Head (the owner of the dog) will have pet insurance to ensure that if he is ill, the dog 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 back of the school site. The staff in charge of the dog will ensure that this is cleared away appropriately. If the school dog toilets when out on the school site, staff members will clear this away appropriately leaving no trace on the ground, cleaning the area with disinfectant if needed. If children have stroked the dog, they will be taught to wash their hands afterwards.

What happens if the dog is ill?

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

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions that have not been covered above.