

20 January, 2022

Dear Parents,



A number of schools have introduced school dogs over the past few years and have seen great benefits from this. Children who do not have pets are able to experience looking after a pet in school, they can be used for comfort for children who may be having a difficult time and they have been used in many schools to help to develop confidence in reading - to just name a few benefits!

We would like to introduce a dog within school who is a black pug called Evie and she belongs to our visiting music teacher Mr Blurton. She will not be based in the school full time, only on Fridays, and we would gradually introduce her to our children, regardless of age, on an individual and small group basis (taking into account both the children and the dogs' welfare at all times). This would happen gradually and over a period of time. No child will be unsupervised with the dog at any point, nor will any child be forced to spend time with them.

We are aware that there may be some concerns about having a school pet and we have carried out a full risk assessment to address some of these concerns.

1. Allergies

Some children in the school may have allergies which are aggravated by pet hair. If there are children who are possibly affected by this, we will also restrict the areas of the school where she is able to be, reducing the risk of any type of irritation. With Evie being a Pug, she sheds very little/no hair. Mr Blurton will ensure that Evie is brushed before coming into school.



2. Phobias

As we introduce Evie to the school, she will remain with Mr Blurton (initially in our music room) at all times. If we are aware of phobias, we will do what we can to ensure that the child is not in contact with the dog, again restricting where in the school she is able to go. We absolutely do not want any child to be worried about coming into contact with Evie as we recognise that this is detrimental to their welfare.

In addition to this restriction, please be assured that at no time will she be able to 'wander' around



Warberry C of E Academy
Cedars Road, Torquay
Devon, TQ1 1SB
T: 01803 292642 **E:** warberry@lapsw.org
W: warberry-lap.co.uk



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the school. She will always be supervised by an adult. If your child has a phobia of dogs, please also let us know if you would like to work with us to try to overcome the phobia; we will be guided by you on this!

3. The safety of the children

No child will be left unsupervised with the dog at any time. Children will be taught how to touch and play with her (if they wish to do so) as Evie is gradually introduced to the school.

4. The welfare of the dog

Evie will not be in school every day and will not be left unsupervised at any time. An adult will always be supervising the safety of both the children and the dog. If the dog is tired, then she will be able to rest. Additionally, all children will be spoken to about not feeding Evie and about how to touch and play with her nicely. Initially, Evie will remain with Mr Blurton in the music room at all times.



If you have any further questions or concerns about your child and our school dog, please do speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment through the office to speak with myself.

Please ensure that you complete and submit the form sent via the MyEd app as soon as possible if your child has an allergy or phobia so that we can ensure everyone's safety and happiness alongside our four legged friend.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Southard
Head of Academy