

St Charles RC Primary School
Emlyn Street
Off Moorside Rd
Swinton
Manchester
M27 9PD
0161 794 4536

Dear Parents/Carers,

What are the benefits of having a school dog?

Therapy dogs have been working in UK schools for the past five years but have been commonplace in schools in the US and Australia for many years. Research studies have shown the benefits of therapy dogs in schools which include:

- Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing
- Social – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others
- Emotional – a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts moods, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can also teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety
- Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses
- Environmental – a dog in a school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over. As you may be aware, there are already many 'Pets as Therapy' dogs working in schools. Reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, through both the calming effect the dog's presence has on children as well as the dog listening to children read without being judgemental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence to read aloud.


St Charles RC Primary school has a school dog Charley. She is Mrs Campbell's family pet and she spends the majority of the school day in Mrs Campbell's office. Guidance and a risk assessment for our school dog is now available on our website at: www.stcharlesprimary.co.uk

Staff, visitors and children known to have allergic reactions to dogs must not go near Charley. The School Nurse keeps a list of all students and staff with a reported allergy to dogs (dander) and ensures that all trained handlers for Charley know who these students and staff are.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further then please make an appointment via the school office.

God bless

C. Campbell

Dr C Campbell and Charley 

Headteacher

Please return to the school office if you are happy for your child to interact with our school dog. I/We give permission for _____ to interact with the school dog at St Charles RC Primary School.

I confirm that my child does not have an allergy to dogs: _____

Date _____ Signature _____



As a family of God, we love to learn and learn to love