



Hi my name is Bella, I am 2 years old and I would like to come to Old Basford School and be your School dog.

I have lived with Mrs Duffin and her family since I was 8 weeks old and she has done lots of research as to why I might be a good school dog and how it can help staff and pupils. She has also spoken to lots other Nottingham City teachers who have school dogs and they love having them in school. The benefits of having a school dog can be:

- dogs can help children develop empathy skills, encourage pupils to act respectfully and improve relationships
- dogs can have a calming effect
- they can help develop emotional literacy
- dogs can encourage children who are typically more withdrawn, to engage with and participate in school life
- they can help children to regulate their own behaviour
- dogs can reduce stress and improve wellbeing for both children and staff
- they can improve self-esteem for children
- they can help with understanding how to behave and care for animals

I am a mixed breed known as a Shihpoo as my mum is a Shih Tzu and my dad is a Poodle. This means that I am hypoallergenic; that means that if you are allergic to dogs, I'm the safest type of dog to be around as I do not shed any of my fur, in fact I have to go to the groomers every 8 weeks for a haircut! Shihpoo's are known to be friendly, eager to please, charming, affectionate and quick-witted but also, they are playful, confident and adaptable.

I know some of you might be scared of dogs but I am super friendly and I would never make you come near me if you did not want to but you never know, maybe I could help you see not all dogs are scary.

When I am at home, I love playing throw and catch with a ball, having my belly rubbed, watching my human brothers and sister playing and most of all, I love having cuddles. I have never bitten anyone or shown any aggressive signs, I think this is because I was trained as a puppy and have grown up in a loving family with 3 children.

Although I would be in school, I would still be the Duffin family pet, school would not own me, Mrs Duffin is responsible for me at all times. I am up to date with all my injections, have my flea treatment done regularly and having my worming tablet to keep me well. I am also insured in case anything happens to me.

When I'm at school, I would stay in Mrs Duffin's office where I would have a bed, food and water. I would not be allowed to just wander around school on my own but I would go out for walks on the lead. If I do a poo outside, I would make sure that it gets cleared up by the responsible adult walking me. I would also only come to school on the days Mrs Duffin was in her office and could keep an eye on me.

Mrs Duffin has also written a risk assessment for me to be in school and will work with the pupils on how they need to behave around me and how I like to be spoken to and played with, as I need to stay safe and they need to be safe.

I hope you like the idea of me coming into school, if you have any questions or comments please speak to Mrs Duffin who can answer them.

I have left you some pictures of me so you can see what I look like, how small I am but also how cute I am!

Hope to see you soon,
Bella

