



04 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have noticed a growing trend in schools to introduce pets as a way to teach responsibility and enrich students' learning experiences. For several years, we have been considering the benefits of having a school dog at Lockerbie Academy. With several schools across Scotland already embracing this, we believe a school dog can significantly enhance both academic and social opportunities for our students.

We are pleased to introduce Eddy, a friendly and well-trained Poodle. Eddy belongs to Mrs Aird, our Principal Teacher of Wellbeing. Poodles are known for their sociable nature, ease of training, and hypoallergenic coat, making Eddy especially suitable for our school environment.

Why a school dog?

Research highlights numerous benefits, including:

- **Social:** A dog fosters positive interactions, responsibility, and respect, improving relationships among students, parents, and staff.
- **Emotional:** Dogs boost self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and promote compassion, laughter, and fun, contributing to better behaviour, attendance, and concentration.
- **Physical:** Interaction with dogs can lower blood pressure, provide tactile stimulation, and motivate movement.
- **Environmental:** A dog helps create a warm, family-like atmosphere that supports wellbeing beyond the school day.
- **Reading Confidence:** Dogs have been shown to help children build confidence in reading by providing a non-judgmental audience.

Bringing a dog into school is a serious commitment. We follow Dogs Trust guidelines and have a comprehensive school policy covering risk assessments, training, hygiene, and considerations for allergies or phobias. Pupils will never be left alone with Eddy and will be taught how to interact safely and respectfully before any classroom involvement.

Eddy's role at school

Eddy will primarily support wellbeing and reading within the Pupil Support department. During the first year, he will not work one-on-one with students unless they choose to interact with him. He will spend time mainly in Mrs Aird's office, The Hive, Wellbeing room, and the library, always on a lead and accompanied by staff. For now, Eddy will be based in the Secondary school, with potential future visits to Primary.

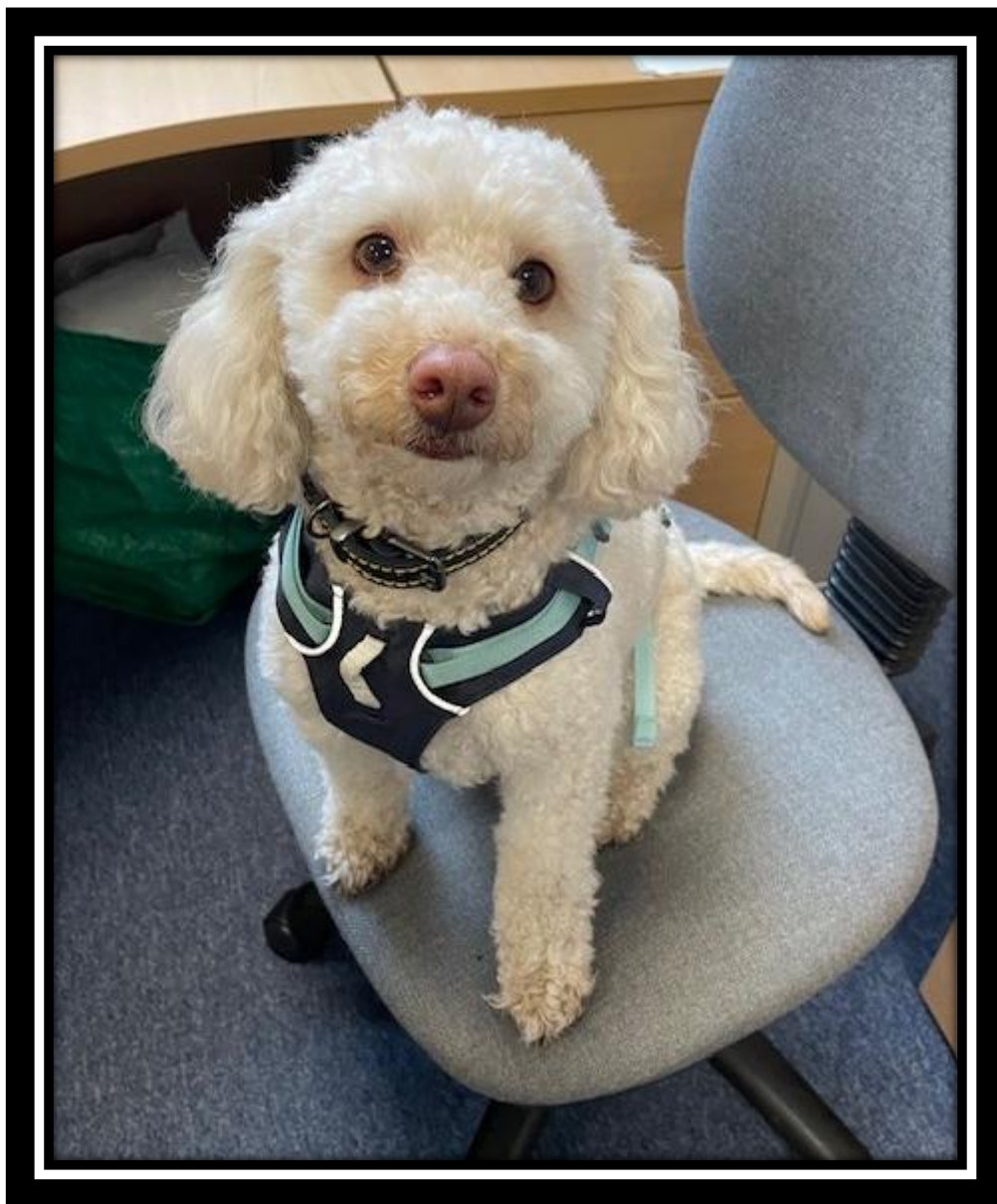
We are careful to ensure Eddy's presence enhances learning and school ethos without causing distraction.

If your child has allergies (which we should already know through the data you are asked to provide at the start of each session, and update if any changes occur throughout the year), phobias, or you have



concerns, please contact the school office. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you consent to your child's interaction with Eddy.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to reach out if you need more information.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Galbraith Currie'.

Kerry Galbraith Currie
Head Teacher (Acting)