

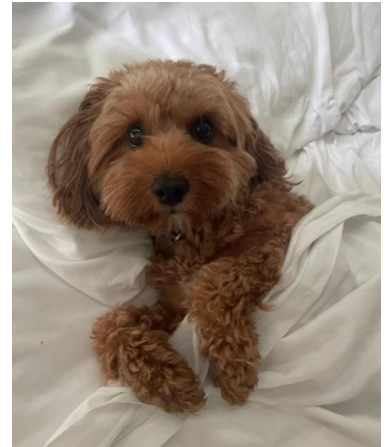
## **Introducing Lilo**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **About Lilo**

##### **Who is Lilo?**

Lilo is a Cavapoo, a cross between a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a Miniature Poodle. She is Mrs McGookin's family pet and lives at home with Mrs McGookin and her family. Lilo stays at home overnight, at weekends and during school holidays.



##### **Why is Lilo coming into school?**

Lilo is beginning a carefully planned training programme to become a school therapy dog. As part of her training, she will gradually spend time in school getting used to the environment, routines and people around her. In time, she may support children's wellbeing, emotional regulation and confidence, as well as take part in activities that promote kindness, empathy, responsibility and animal care.

##### **What is a school therapy dog?**

A school therapy dog is a trained dog that works alongside staff to support children's wellbeing and learning. Spending time with a therapy dog may help some children feel calmer, develop confidence, build positive relationships and feel more comfortable talking about their feelings. Every child is different, and interaction with Lilo will always be optional.

##### **What training is Lilo undertaking?**

Lilo is currently working towards becoming a school therapy dog. Her training focuses on helping her feel comfortable and confident in different environments, respond calmly to children and adults, and behave safely in a busy school setting. Like any trainee, she will gradually build her experience through short, supervised visits before taking on a wider role within school life.

#### **Safety and Welfare**

##### **Is Lilo suitable for being around children?**

Lilo has been selected for the training due to her character. As part of her therapy dog training, her suitability for working in a school environment will be continually assessed. Lilo's interactions with children will be carefully supervised and managed by trained staff. Children will also be taught how to interact with her safely and respectfully.

##### **How will Lilo's health and safety be managed?**

Lilo is fully insured, vaccinated and receives regular veterinary care, including an annual health check. When moving around the school site, she will wear a chest harness and remain on a lead under adult supervision. The school will follow appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both children and Lilo.

##### **Will my child ever be left alone with Lilo?**

No. Lilo will always be supervised by a member of staff and children will never be left alone with her. If children are given the opportunity to walk with Lilo, this will always take place alongside a supervising adult.

##### **Will Lilo have time away from the children?**

Yes. Lilo will have access to a designated quiet area where she can rest whenever she needs to. Her welfare will be closely monitored and all interactions will be planned with her needs in mind.

#### **Everyday School Life**

##### **Will Lilo be around school all day?**

No. During her training, Lilo's time in school will gradually increase as her confidence develops. Her visits and activities will be carefully planned around both her welfare and the needs of the children. She will have regular breaks throughout the day and will not be expected to interact with children continuously.

**What kinds of activities might Lilo be involved in?**

As her training progresses, Lilo may take part in small-group wellbeing sessions, reading activities, individual support sessions or curriculum activities linked to animal care, kindness and responsibility. All activities will be carefully planned and supervised.

**Will my child be able to stroke or spend time with Lilo?**

Yes. All children will have the opportunity to interact with Lilo when appropriate and under adult supervision. They will be taught how to approach her calmly and respectfully and to respect when she needs space or rest.

**Can children feed Lilo treats?**

Children must not bring in food or treats to give Lilo. Any feeding of Lilo will be managed by staff and only permitted when appropriate.

**Will Lilo affect classroom learning?**

Lilo's involvement in school life will always be planned to support wellbeing and learning without disrupting lessons. Staff will carefully consider where and when her presence is most beneficial.

**Will Lilo be around at break and lunchtime?**

Lilo's access to different parts of the school will be carefully managed. She will only be present in areas where her presence is appropriate and safe, and she will not access food preparation areas or dining spaces.

**Allergies, Fears and Individual Needs****What if my child has an allergy to dogs?**

We understand that some children may have allergies to dogs. Although Cavapoos are often described as low-shedding dogs, no dog is completely hypoallergenic. Please inform the school if your child has a known or suspected allergy so that we can discuss appropriate arrangements.

**What if my child is frightened of dogs?**

We recognise that not all children feel comfortable around dogs. No child will be pressured to approach, touch or spend time with Lilo. If your child is anxious around dogs, please let us know so we can work together to help them feel safe and comfortable.

**Will my child have to interact with Lilo?**

No. Interaction with Lilo will always be optional. Alternative arrangements will be made where necessary to ensure all children feel comfortable and included.

**Hygiene and Parent Choice****How will hygiene be maintained?**

Children will be expected to wash their hands after interacting with Lilo and before eating. Lilo will not enter food preparation areas or the hall when children are eating.

**Can I ask for my child not to interact with Lilo?**

Yes. We respect the views and preferences of every family. If you would prefer your child not to interact with Lilo, or if you have any concerns, please contact the school so that appropriate arrangements can be discussed.