Therapy Dog – Frequently Asked Questions

Are dogs now allowed in the school?
Dogs are still not allowed on the school grounds. The Therapy Dog is an initiative planned for with policy and training.

When will Freddie be present at school?
Freddie will be at school on select Mondays or Tuesdays, based on the availability of the MS Grant to work with Freddie and students. Some days Freddie prefers to stay home and lounge around all day!

Where will Freddie be during the day?
Freddie will be at school during school hours, under the care of Ms Grant or another handler. Most of the time Freddie will be in the Social Work space with Ms Grant. Freddie may visit select classrooms or spaces around the school as needed during the day. Freddie especially loves coming out before/after school to greet students and families.

What will be the job of the Therapy Dog?
Some of the roles of a Therapy Dog can include:

- Being with individuals or small groups of children to provide comfort
- Going for a walk with identified children to reduce anxiety or distress
- Joining classroom sessions to listen to children's reading or speeches
- Supporting students in any emotional situation
- Teaching kids about empathy and reading non-verbal cues of others

What if my child is scared or has an allergy to dogs?
The student's safety is our highest priority. Please use the QR code to advise us if your child is scared or has an allergy to dogs. No children will be expected to interact with Freddie if they are not comfortable doing so, though they will see Freddie incidentally around the school. A sign will be placed at the front gate to let people know on the days that Freddie is at school.

Freddie will not be left alone with any student at any time and all of the students from Pre-Kindy to Year Six will be explicitly taught about safety around dogs prior to being introduced to our Therapy Dog. We will educate the students in the Approach, Ask, Pat, Goodbye method (see link below). Although Freddie is very safe, this reinforces safe interactions with all dogs in the community.

https://youtu.be/tz3foX4skp4?si=SkSqNRo4lNKDx30t