

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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Headteacher: Mr G Moore



'It Really Does Matter'

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to introduce Tommy to you. He is an 8 year old Cockapoo and is Abbotswood's very own school dog.

Background Information

Tommy is, in fact, Mr Moore's family dog and he has been living with him since December 2017. Tommy's dad is a miniature poodle and his mum was a working cocker spaniel. Unusually, Tommy was in a litter of one so is an 'only child'.

Loving, sociable, energetic and well-behaved, Tommy has a calm temperament and has become a real asset to the Abbotswood community. Already familiar with the school and the children (he has been in school since he was a very young puppy), he loves their company and thrives on their attention. The children thrive on his attention too. We chose a cockapoo as they are highly adaptable little dogs, extremely affectionate and loyal to their families by nature. They are also highly intelligent, having inherited this from both their parents.



In recent years, it has become increasingly recognised that dogs can have a positive, calming and often therapeutic effect on people. It is now common for them to be seen in a variety of settings, including; schools, hospitals, care homes etc. It has also been proven that working and playing with a dog can improve children's social skills and self-esteem. He works with our ELSAs, reads with the children, greets children (and adults) on the gate and is used as a reward for children.

Further Information

We would like to assure you that the school has everything in place for Tommy. He regularly visits the vets for check-ups, his health documentation is in order and a dog trainer has visited Abbotswood to train him and staff within the school environment. He is also fully insured to be in school. The children will never be left alone with Tommy and there will be appropriate adult supervision at all times.

As someone who has had to overcome a fear of dogs since childhood, I appreciate that some parents and/or children would prefer their child not to be involved with Tommy. This is understandable and we will certainly abide by your wishes.

Cockapoos are ideal as 'assistance' dogs because, not only is their temperament ideal for working with children, but the make-up of their fur makes them hypoallergenic – which means that they are much less likely to cause an allergic reaction in humans. However, if you know or think your child is allergic to dogs and maybe adversely affected by Tommy, please let the school know by emailing admin.office@abbsch.co.uk. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you are happy for your child to work alongside our Tommy.

Tommy only 'works' in school for about 1/2 days per week. If you see him around school, please feel free to come and say hello. He is truly adorable (although I am biased). Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Glenn Moore
Headteacher