



# NEWARK HILL ACADEMY

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We at Newark Hill Academy pride ourselves on the school's nurturing ethos and mission to build a happy, safe learning environment; where whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever your starting point, we will nurture you and work with you.

Our education is not just about learning to read and write, it about developing the whole child.

- **Dogs and chickens teach children responsibility.** Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
- **Dogs teach children patience.** Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
- **Dogs teach children compassion.** Just like humans, dogs feel emotions and pain. They are prone to injuries and infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
- **Dogs teach children about socialisation.** Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children learn how to better socialize with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park!
- **Dogs are fun.** Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up when no one else can.

Having animals in school lends itself to our mission, so following much research, including liaison with many other schools, we have decided to recruit a new member to the Newark Hill Academy family.

Dogs and the benefits to children, the following links make interesting reading! [The Guardian Newspaper Another Layer of Happiness](#). By googling 'our school dog' you will see how many dogs there are in schools around the country.

## **About Margot**

She has an excellent temperament, and due to extensive socialisation, is used to interactions with people and other animals, including children of all ages. When she meets someone, her default is to pull her ears back and wait for a stroke. She has no fear of crowds and loves the attention from anyone who shows her attention.

### **Margot's job description:**

- To provide comfort to children who need to regulate their emotions.
- To provide comfort to adults – improving wellbeing.
- To further create a family atmosphere: not all families can have a dog in their home.
- To listen to readers.
- To inspire imaginative writing.
- To be walked (with adult supervision and permission from parents/carers) by Year 6.
- To be trained by the children.
- To inspect the classes each morning.

### **Rules to be established by all stakeholders:**

All children at school are taught how to approach dogs and how to respond to unwanted behaviour. They are taught that they must ask if they wish to pet Margot and know how she is trained to greet people. This is an important life-lesson for the children.

1. Ignore Margot - speak to the handler first
2. Ask permission to approach
3. Four paws on the floor (everyone needs to be consistent with this).
4. Take turns (the children – not Margot...)
5. No barking (Margot – not the children...)
6. Let sleeping dogs lie (we recognise that a school can be a tiring experience for a dog, especially with their heightened sense of smell!)

[Here is the link to the Risk Assessment](#)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please drop me an email [skendal@newarkhillacademy.org](mailto:skendal@newarkhillacademy.org)

*S. Kendal*

Mrs S Kendal  
Principal