

# THE DOG MENTOR

BUILDING CHARACTERS



# THE DOG MENTOR – YOU HAD ME AT HELLO

The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them:

- Educationally
- Developmentally
- Emotionally
- Socially

Over the last five years The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including :

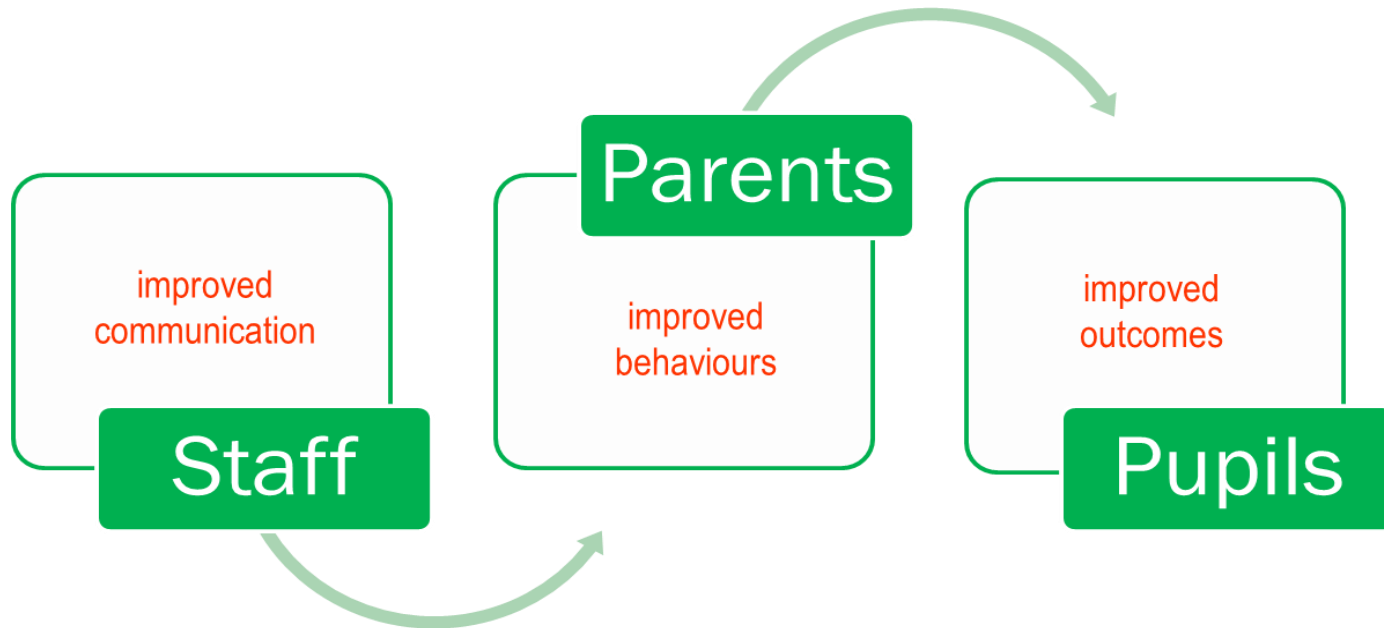
- higher self-esteem
- greater empathy
- more engagement with peers
- better prosocial behaviour

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# THE DOG MENTOR – YOU HAD ME AT HELLO

The positive impacts created by the Dog Mentor programme follow the premise that improving communication within schools will improve behaviour. This, in turn will provide an improved outcome for staff, parents and more importantly pupils.



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# IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Any behaviour is a form of communication.

It is essential to understand what the behaviour exhibited is communicating.

The key difference in achieving improved communication is not in the message that is being promoted, it's in **how** the message is promoted.

We use dogs in schools as a tool to impress on people this message. Using a trained dog, we are able to change any environment as a positive distraction. This enables us to work with anybody to enable them to understand the positive skills of communication.

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# IMPROVED BEHAVIOURS

**On a practical level, we enable all pupils and staff in the school to**

- change their mindset into a positive one at all times
- improve rapport skills within the school environment
- understand that behaviour is a form of communication
- realise that mind and body communications affects our behaviour
- experience life and process it via all five senses
- improve personal growth and development in a way that affects all aspects of their lives such as in-work, at-home and external relationships outside of school

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# IMPROVED OUTCOMES

The overall target is to improve the personal development for all staff, parents and pupils so that they are more productive in a positive learning environment.

This will lead to greater achievements both at home and in school.  
More specifically:

- raising standards and accelerate progress
- improve the quality of teaching and learning across the entire school
- improve the conditions for learning
- to improve skills such that the impact has a lifelong affect

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# MEET THE TEAM

Jenny Duckworth



Layla  
4 years

Lucy  
7 months

Kerry Jewiss



Nala  
6 years

Flo  
2 years

Andrea Kitchener



Sully  
5 years

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# LAYLA'S PROFILE



Hi guys, I'm Layla!

I'm a little firecracker! Always excited, full of energy and I can't get enough of playing fetch with a ball!

I might be lively but don't be fooled, I am always on alert and ready to spring into action and I just can't resist a challenge!

I love working with people and give everyone a special Layla kiss...oh ok, maybe a lot of Layla kisses, but you can never have to many, that's my moto!

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# LUCY'S PROFILE



Hi! My name is Lucy!

I'm the baby of the group, younger than all my friends, but I'm definitely not the shy one! I am super enthusiastic, love to learn, and will work with you confidently especially when you tell me how much of a good girl I am!

Just like all puppies I always want to play, dig, run, and chew but my favourite thing to do is hunt down sticks! The most important thing to know about me is that I like to fill my day with lots and lots of cuddles so don't be shy!

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# NALA'S PROFILE



Hello, I'm Nala, but you can call me the mummy of the group!

I'm not as crazy as the others - calm and collected I'm happiest chilling out and watching the rest of my friends have fun. I am easy breezy and don't mind excited dogs around me, I will always make time to relax!

Everyone calls me a Princess because of my composed nature but I'll tell you a secret, I can also be a little piggy because I love to eat treats! Shh, don't tell anyone!

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# FLO'S PROFILE



Hi all! My name's Flo!

I might look like my mummy Nala, but we couldn't be more different! If I was a human, I would be just like Jessica Ennis - strong, tough and athletic, you would definitely see me in the Olympics!

I'm a true retriever which means I am always on the go and determined to please so that everyone is happy! Just like Layla, my favourite game in the whole world is to play fetch with the ball, I can't wait to play and be the best of friends!

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# SULLY'S PROFILE



Hello everyone, my name is Sully!

I might be larger than my friends but I'm just like the big friendly giant because I love cuddles, I love to be pampered but most of all, I love to please!

When I'm working I am confident and adaptable to different situations, and am happy to take charge and lead the way, so don't worry about a thing!

To sum me up I am calm and collected, cool as a cucumber...ooo cucumber? Yummy!

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# The human-animal bond

Science has learned that dogs not only understand human emotions but that they also have emotions. Research shows that all dogs develop the same emotion range of a 2½ year old child.

This means that dogs have all the basic emotions of:

Fear Joy Distress  
Excitement  
ANGER Love

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# WHY ARE DOGS IN SCHOOL?

To work with children and staff within the school to create a positive impact. By working alongside the dog and learning how to become a good trainer, both staff and children experience the values and techniques that help develop:

- Communication
- Self control and confidence
- Discipline and Resilience
- Empathy and Relationships
- Focus and Concentration
- Stress Coping Strategies

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# DOG MENTOR CALENDAR

We will be working in school on the following day(s):

To be confirmed

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# IN SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

How to behave around dogs in school:

- Always ask the handler if you can stroke
- Don't get too excited – always approach dog calmly
- No loud voices
- No screaming with excitement to see dog
- Try not to run
- No eating around dog
- Always wash hands after being with dog
- Always make the handler aware if you are allergic to dogs
- Always let the handler know if you're worried about meeting dog

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