

Teachers' Pets

Could School Dogs Help Reduce Stress?

Some people say they're man's best friend but could wellbeing dogs help children at school? Damian Hinds, the former education secretary, thinks that 'pets can really help' children.

He also said that dogs could be really 'uplifting' and could also help young people in 'expressing themselves'.

Many people believe that schools need to help children with their mental health.

A lot of children have experienced difficulties in their mental health. It's therefore important for schools to find ways to support them.

Another educational expert says that every school should have a dog. He believes that this would be the 'quickest and biggest hit' to improve children's mental health.

Some schools already have dogs. One school in south-east London has a cockapoo called Maisie. Children can go for walks with her if they feel stressed.



Dogs are helping children in some schools.

Not everyone though believes this is a good idea. The Dogs Trust says that classrooms can be busy and unpredictable places for dogs. The welfare of the dog needs to be considered.

It has also said that a dog needs an owner. A dog cannot simply be passed around teachers as dogs form strong bonds with their owners.

While some people believe that dogs can improve children's wellbeing, looking after an animal is a big responsibility.