## Puppy Alfie Joins the Staff Team!



In December 2023 Scarborough school welcomed 'Alfie' to our school. Alfie is our adorable trainee therapy dog!

Alfie is a Cavapoo, which is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel crossed with a Toy Poodle. He lives with our Head Teacher and comes to school every day.

Alfie was chosen specially as a breed of dog most suitable for emotional support, he helps pupils by decreasing learning anxiety behaviours which in turn results in improved learning outcomes for them.

These learning outcomes can include improvements in reading and writing levels, positive changes towards learning and improved motivation.

Alfie also helps to enhance relationships with peers and teachers due to experiencing trust and unconditional love from a therapy dog. He is certainly fantastic at giving cuddles and helps to spread joy with his constantly wagging tail

We can already see small positive changes in school, particularly towards behaviour and pupils managing to self-regulate better.

All the staff and pupils are thoroughly enjoying the experience of having a puppy in school, he is a very much welcomed and appreciated staff member.