

Good News Story:

'Alfie the Support Dog'



A county Cork school has taken the lead in helping students cope with stress and classroom anxieties. It has introduced a support dog that has proven very popular with students and teachers. Alfie is a support dog and he is already having a calming influence across the school. Middleton CBS Primary School is

the first mainstream school in Cork where a support dog has become part of the classroom.

Children who may not be confident readers can come out and read to Alfie. Alfie helps children by boosting their confidence and self-esteem. Alfie is 17-months old. Every morning Alfie goes from class to class and helps the students to settle in. Whenever you feel sad, anxious or angry Alfie will come in sit beside you and help you feel better.

Alfie is a Labradoodle dog. Alfie was trained to become a support dog by the 'My Canine Companion Charity'. The charity trains 60 dogs a year. The dogs support children with autism and additional needs. The charity is dependent on public donations. It needs half a million euro a year to run its dog training school. The goal of the charity is to get more support dogs into classrooms so that they can help children all over Ireland.