

Risk Assessment Form

Location/Dept:	Date Assessed: 16.12.2024	Assessed by: Kathryn Mort
Task/Activity: Dogs in schools – used for therapy purpose, dogs for the blind, used for learning purposes etc.	Review Date: 17.12.2025	Reference Number:

Hazard	Who might be harmed and how?	Controls in place	Risk Rating L x S=R (1-5)	Additional controls required	Action by whom and when?	Completed	Residual Risk L x S=R (1-5)
Poor Hygiene from (dog faeces, sick, urine etc.)	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents, unauthorised third parties come into contact with substances and contract Toxocariasis, Leptospirosis, ringworm, E. coli O157	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog toileted in carpark. Faeces removed in dog bags and disposed in the external bin. PPE – gloves, disinfectant available and to be used for removing hazardous substances. 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog removed from school and not reallocated until the dog is clear of sickness and diarrhoea. 	Head Teacher/ Site manager		
Poor Hygiene	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents touch the dog leading to infections from contact (stroking) – fleas, ticks, worms, saliva resulting in Toxocariasis, Leptospirosis, ringworm, E. coli O157	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children reminded by staff to wash hands after contact. Anti-bacterial gel available in school. Dog regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention. Dog has received annual inoculations Dog has annual health check Dog is groomed regularly 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People informed to cover open wounds with plasters 	Head Teacher		

Dog bites, scratching or handler pulled over/injured	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents injured from dog bite, falling/pulled over resulting in sprain/strain, bruising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog kept on lead and harness at all times outside of school office area. • Children taught by staff on how to safely interact with the dog. • Dog trained not to jump up and supervised by staff at all times. • Dog nails clipped regularly by groomer • Dog taught commands and reacts to command words 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog's temperament/behaviour monitored by Head Teacher 	Head Teacher		
Allergic reactions	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents experience allergic reaction such as asthma, itching, vomiting, hives, anaphylaxis etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents given the choice to opt out of close contact. • Medical records used to list pupils with health conditions (such as allergies). • Children/persons reminded by staff to wash hands after contact. • Anti-bacterial gel available in school. • First Aiders and First Aid room. • Staff completed consent forms to highlight allergies. • Dog bedding washed by Head Teacher monthly 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors advised of dog and dog removed if requested. • Parents informed of school dog and his purpose. Consent letters for children completed. 	Head Teacher/ Office Staff		
Dog phobia	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents incur panic attack/distress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors advised of dog and dog removed if requested. • Prominent signs posted at the entrance to the school and on the school website. • Staff supervision. • Parents offered programme of support for child. 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors advised of dog and dog removed if requested. 	Head Teacher/ Office Staff		
Dog anxious/tired – doors banging/pulling of tail, reaction to children, fire alarm activation	Pupils, staff, volunteers, parents injured from distressed dog. Dog incurs poor health/treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe space for the dog is in Head Teachers Office. • Dog food, treats and water are kept in Head Teachers Office. • Spills will be cleared up. • Staff supervision of children and dog. • Dog removed to safe space if required. • Dog walked 4 times per day. 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog takes part in fire evacuation. 	Head Teacher / Office Staff		

Children's behaviour around the dog.	Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave School staff are present at all time during Children's contact with the dog. School staff are ready to remove children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly introducing the dog and expectations to children prior to start date. • Expectations consistent and a heard to. • Leaflets / posters displayed around school • Information on school website 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog never left alone with children. • Discussion with staff around appropriate behaviours. 	Head Teacher	
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Risk/Priority Indicator Key

Likelihood
1. Improbable/very unlikely
2. Unlikely
3. Even chance/may happen
4. Likely
5. Almost certain/imminent

Severity (Consequence)

RISK/PRIORITY INDICATOR MATRIX						
LIKELIHOOD	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5	
	SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE)					

1. Negligible (delay only)
2. Slight (minor injury/damage/interruption)
3. Moderate (lost time injury, illness, damage, lost business)
4. High (major injury/damage, lost time business interruption, disablement)
5. Very High (fatality/business closure)

Summary		Suggested Timeframe
12-25	High	As soon as possible
6-11	Medium	Within next 3-6 months
1-5	Low	Whenever viable to do so