



RISK ASSESSMENT FOR: School Dog

Name of Assessor: Assessor's Signature: Bev Lee

Date: September 2024

Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety?	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level H/M/L	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved H/M/L	What further action is needed to reduce the risk
Animal behaviour	<p>If the school dog is not comfortable in a specific school environment and reacts badly, including bites or scratches.</p> <p>Over-excitement and jumping up resulting to falls.</p>	Injury to staff, students and visitors.	Medium	<p>The dog will receive ongoing formal training, socialising and conditioning within the school environment.</p> <p>The dog has grown up in the school environment and has undergone a phased plan to introduce new noises, experiences and routines. This included limited interaction with pupils as a starting point whilst indicators and mood were learnt.</p> <p>As the dog continues to grow and training progresses, so too will the number of trusted and familiar adults who are able to handle him. These staff are aware of his commands and training needs.</p> <p>Pupils are taught appropriate behaviour around the school dog, what to do to</p>	Low	Pupils, parents and visitors to be informed of the presence of a school dog at initial home visit/arrival at school.

				<p>prevent over stimulating or upsetting the dog and how to remain calm.</p> <p>Pupils have been informed how to approach and play with a young dog and how to respond to any over excitement.</p> <p>Pupils are closely supervised by an adult during interaction with the animal.</p> <p>Pupils are never left with the dog unsupervised.</p> <p>The school dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult.</p> <p>If the school dog exhibits any warning behaviours such as growling or lowered ears he will be removed immediately from students to an identified quiet area.</p> <p>The school dog will have a safe space and bed in the office area of each base and given regular opportunities to exercise/toilet. This will be with his legal owner.</p> <p>In the event that a pupil, staff member or visitor is bitten or scratched (even if only a “play” bite) First Aiders will inspect and assess the injury. The suitability of the school dog will then be reassessed by the Safeguarding Lead/Head Teacher.</p>		
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<p>Disease, Illness &amp; Allergic Reactions</p>	<p>If people come into contact with animal faeces/urine or have an allergy to dogs</p>	<p>Staff, students or visitors could suffer ill health</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The dog will attend vets and groomers regularly to ensure in good condition and claws are short.</p> <p>All vaccinations are maintained and up to date.</p> <p>A toileting area at each site will be identified and pupils informed of its location. All waste produced by the dog is handled and disposed of hygienically by the owner and specifically appointed adults.</p> <p>Baumber – walkway near school. Amber Hill – grass area outside front entrance. Lincoln – grass area opposite car park.</p> <p>A register will be kept of any pupils/staff with allergies to dogs and these students will not interact with the dog without written permission from parents.</p> <p>Flea and worming treatment will be carried out at regular intervals as recommended by vets.</p> <p>The dog will not go into the food preparation area of the kitchen or the cooking rooms.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Any toileting mishaps will be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant spray.</p> <p>In the event of any allergies, dog-free areas will be created in each base. In the event of a severe allergy, a plan will be made in conjunction with family. This is likely to mean that the school dog will not be allowed on that site.</p>
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<p>Animal Phobias</p>	<p>If people become scared or upset around the school dog</p>	<p>Staff, visitors or pupils could suffer distress.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Pupils and adults must always wash their hands after handling the school dog.</p> <p>Immediate medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside once the animal and afflicted person are kept apart.</p> <p>The dog will be groomed regularly to minimise shedding.</p> <p>Pupils and staff are encouraged but never forced to spend time with the school dog.</p> <p>There is clear signage at reception about the school dog.</p> <p>Where there are pupils and staff with phobias, a list is maintained and the dog will be segregated from them.</p> <p>Outside of timetabled activities the school dog will be in the office area of each base with his owner.</p> <p>The dog will always be on lead when moving around the premises unless all present are comfortable with him 'wandering' - this will be supervised by staff.</p> <p>If off lead for playing purposes, any pupils in the area will be informed and doors kept shut.</p>	<p>Low</p>	
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<p>School emergency evacuation (including drills)</p>	<p>Distress</p>	<p>The dog could behave in an unexpected way, become defensive or try to escape.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Outside off lead play will be in separate areas of the school grounds and only with pupils who feel comfortable with this.</p> <p>Information about pupils with phobias will be collected at initial home visit.</p> <p>The school dog will be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, primarily his owner.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency evacuation, immediately proceed to the nearest fire exit and then the adult walks as far as possible from other people evacuating whilst maintaining a safe distance from the building.</p> <p>As part of familiarisation, the school dog has been present for the sounding of the alarms both in and outside of school hours to observe his response.</p> <p>If the dog manages to escape from an adult during the evacuation, the adult must still evacuate immediately and notify emergency services outside of the dog's absence.</p>	<p>Low</p>	
<p>Claim is made</p>	<p>A parent or visitor could make a claim against the school</p>	<p>The school</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The school has public liability insurance which covers liability for a school dog</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The school dog will continue training to a</p>

against school	relating to the behaviour of the dog			<p>where a full risk assessment has been completed.</p> <p>Appropriate health and theft insurance is in place with the owner.</p>	high standard at KC registered venues.
Dog wellbeing	Distressed	Health/Welfare The dog	Low	<p>All health details including vet details are kept in a portable file which is available in each base and online.</p> <p>He has a bag and bed in each base including items such as familiar toys, blankets and first aid kit.</p> <p>Most pupil interactions are planned and pre-requested by named handlers to avoid overwhelm. However, there are occasions where this may not be the case should a pupil become distressed/request some time. These ad hoc interactions are carefully monitored to prevent fatigue.</p>	

Signed: *B. Temple*

Date: 26.09.2024

# GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING A RISK ASSESSMENT

## DEFINITIONS :

**HAZARD** – An activity where there is potential for harm to be caused.

**RISK** – The likelihood of harm being realised.

1. Identify an activity, process or operation where there is potential for injury or damage. Consider whether it is essential for the activity to continue. i.e. without the hazard there is no risk. E.g. taking a pupil out of school to a different activity is a potential risk. Any type of school trip must always be authorised by the Headteacher or a member of the SMT. There are very specific risk assessment criteria involved and authorisation from the LA is required
2. Identify the hazards within the activity. i.e. using machinery, confined spaces, working at height, electricity, manual handling, using certain chemicals etc.
3. Determine the risks involved and what type of incident is anticipated, considering who and how many people will be affected. i.e. contact with moving/sharp equipment, asphyxiation, falls, electrocution, back injury, violence/abuse etc.
4. Estimate the risk level without the benefit of any control measures.  
Risk = severity x likelihood  
**HIGH** - certain or near certain that harm will result in serious injury/damage.  
**MEDIUM** - harm will probably occur frequently with minor injury/damage.  
**LOW** - it is unlikely that harm will be caused and the outcome would result in very minor injury/damage.
5. High and medium risk levels will require **control measures** to reduce the risk level to as low as is reasonably practicable. This could be achieved by: Guarding, Safety Procedures/Working Practices, Specialist Training, Mechanical Assistance, Contracting Out etc. Personnel Protective Equipment should only be considered, as the last resort, if these controls cannot achieve a low risk level.
6. Re- assess the risk level considering the effect of the control measures.
7. Some of the control measures may be suitable for immediate action to reduce the risk level, but in some cases further more permanent action may be required to achieve long term levels of low risk.
8. Where there is potential for the person's health to be affected health surveillance may be required. This should be recorded.
9. A procedure should be developed for the necessary action to take in the event of an emergency.
10. All assessments should be dated, recorded and reviewed periodically.

Risk assessments are intended to achieve a safe working environment with safe systems of work that will protect everyone connected with the work. If you perceive that there may be a potential risk when working with students you **MUST** assess the risk before you work. If you are unsure of the potential risk – seek advice from the H and S Co-ordinator - V Grayson at Pilgrim or a member of the SMT.