



**Manchester
Communication
Primary Academy**

DOG IN SCHOOL

Risk Assessment 2019

To calculate the risk value, multiply likelihood by severity. E.G. a shark attack at Blackpool beach is very unlikely (1) but could be very severe (5), $1 \times 5 = 5$, the risk is therefore low.

Severe Risk (20 - 25)	Significant Risk (15 - 20)	Some Risk (10 - 15)	Low Risk (0 - 15)
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What are the main hazards?	Dog jumping and knocking over children, scratching, biting. Children having trips and falls playing with/running from the dog. Diseases carried by dogs, the dog escaping.
Who may be harmed?	Children / Staff

Hazard - Dog getting over-excited when interacting with children.

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
The dogs jumps up (knocking over or scratching a child)	5	4	20	<p>The dog will be trained around young children in basic socialisation and behaviours for therapy dogs by a certified trainer, prior to coming to school.</p> <p>On starting at school, the dog will be gradually familiarised with the school environment and children (following a week by week plan reviewed in weekly meetings between the SENDCo and AHT PDBW).</p> <p>The dog will always be corrected if she jumps up.</p> <p>The dog is a female and is less likely to attempt to mount as a result.</p> <p>The dog's nails will be regularly clipped and filed to ensure that they are not sharp.</p> <p>An adult who is confident with the dog will always supervise the dog's interaction with children.</p> <p>If the dog appears to be over-excited, contact with children will be ceased immediately.</p> <p>The dog will not have contact with children for an allocated period of time after energetic exercise.</p> <p>The dog will have a regular program of exercise.</p> <p>Children will all be educated in how to approach the dog through workshops (using the dog's trust resources) in class before contact with the dog, this includes being quiet, calm, slow and maintaining a safe distance. This is to be detailed on posters around the school building.</p> <p>Children are taught when not to approach the dog (when eating, using the toilet or off the lead).</p> <p>Children will not give the dog treats or tidbits to eat from their hands, they will place them on the floor in front of the dog, whilst she sits and waits for a command.</p> <p>The dog will always walk through the teaching spaces on a lead and children are taught not to approach.</p> <p>The dog will not enter the nursery base under any circumstances.</p> <p>Children whose parents do not consent to them interacting with the dog will not be allowed to do so.</p> <p>Parents can opt-out of their child engaging with the dog at any point, as can the child.</p>	3	4	12

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measueres	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
The dog bites a child	4	4	16	<p>As above +</p> <p>The breed of dog is generally calm and un-fazed, the dog has been selected by a professional trainer for her suitability as a primary school therapy dog.</p> <p>If the dog is to be fed in school, she will be undisturbed in the SENDCo's office without children present.</p> <p>Children must wash their hands prior to handling the dog so that no food remnants or smells confuse/attract the dog.</p> <p>The dog is to be corrected if she 'nips' whilst young.</p> <p>Children are made aware of the dog's sensitive areas and which bits not to touch so as to avoid aggravation.</p> <p>Handlers to be aware of the signs of aggressive behaviour (growling, barking, standing up straight, ears standing up, high tail) and remove the dog from a situation immediately in the event of any of these tells.</p> <p>The dog is not to be subject to sensory overload (small groups, low volume etc).</p> <p>The dog is to be gently integrated into classroom environments over the first 6 months.</p> <p>If the dog bites a child, contact is immediately ceased and a review is conducted.</p>	2	3	6

Hazard - The dog gets loose from the crate or lead.

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measueres	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
The dog escapes in the building	4	3	12	<p>The dog will be crate trained by a professional before coming to school and will come back to her name.</p> <p>The dog's Crate will be in the SENDCo's office with the door shut. The SENDCo's office opens onto a further closed area.</p> <p>There will a sign on the door reminding staff and children that the door must be kept shut if the dog is in there.</p> <p>The dog's crate will be big enough for her to be comfortable and move.</p> <p>If staff see that the dog is loose, they are to shut the doors and keep the children away.</p> <p>The dog will wear a collar to make leading her back to the office easier. A spare lead will be kept in the SENDCo's office along with treats for a member of staff to coax her back with.</p> <p>There will be members of staff to call upon at different times of the day (if Miss Noble is busy) to ensure that the dog is safely collected and placed back in the crate – see list on the SENDCo's office door. Staff will be trained to ensure that the dog does not become overly anxious or feel threatened (potentially leading to her lashing out).</p> <p>Children will be advised that if they see the dog running, not to chase her.</p> <p>Following an escape, the dog has no further contact with children on that day and staff review the circumstances to update practice.</p>	2	3	6

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measueres	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
The dog escapes outside the building.	3	4	12	As above + If the children are outside, the bell will be rung immediately and they are brought inside whilst the dog is caught. There will be named members of staff to call upon to help retrieve the dog and place her back on the lead.	2	3	6

Hazard - People are scared of the dog.

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measueres	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
Fear of the dog or injury cause due to fear (e.g. running away from the dog).	3	2	6	The children and staff will be gently introduced to the dog with anyone being able to opt-out of contact. The dog will be on a lead or in an enclosed room so that it cannot chase anyone. The dog will be trained not to jump up or bark at people. The dog will be introduced to the school as a 12 week old puppy, so that staff and children see its lack of threat. Class workshops with regular updates will ensure that the children empathize with the dog. Initial introductions with the dog will be conducted by more than 1 member of staff so that contact can be quickly ended if required.	2	3	6

Hazard - Dog hair causes allergies

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measueres	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
Allergic reactions.	4416	2	6	The dog will be a low shedding, curly haired hypoallergenic cockapoo. This should limit allergic reactions. The dog will be regularly brushed and clipped in order to further reduce shedding. The dog's crate and SENDCo's office will be deep cleaned regularly by the school caretaker. Letters will have gone home advising parents of the dog. They will be given the opportunity to inform us of any allergies and concerns they may have. The dog's access to areas which are shared by any allergy sufferers will be restricted. Children will be able to opt out of any interaction with the dog. There will be a list of children available who are unable to spend time with the dog. Children will have learnt to wash their hands before and after any interactions with the dog.	2	5	10

Hazard - Illness Caused by the dog

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
Children/staff contracting diseases carried by dogs.	4	3	12	<p>The dog will be toilet trained prior to coming into school.</p> <p>Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner, using disinfectant as required.</p> <p>The dog will be trained to toilet in the school carpark, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant.</p> <p>The dog will be regularly vet checked and all immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and the Head teacher keeps a register of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 6 monthly intervals.</p> <p>The dog will not go in the school dining hall at or around meal times and will not be allowed in the food preparation areas.</p> <p>The dog will not be allowed in the hall whilst the dining tables are set-up.</p> <p>Children will not be allowed to eat or drink around the dog.</p> <p>All people handling the dog will wash their hands before and afterwards.</p> <p>Children who are known to have lower immunity levels due to medical conditions will have restricted access to the dog.</p>	3	3	9

Hazard - Children walking dog pulls on the lead

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
Children are pulled over/ along by the dog	4	3	12	<p>The dog is a small, light breed which is less likely to pull the children than a large breed.</p> <p>Children walking the dog will be trained in how to do so without her pulling.</p> <p>The dog will be trained to walk to heel and any pulling corrected.</p> <p>A member of staff will remain within reach whilst the dog and children are becoming familiar with walking so that they can regain control of the lead.</p> <p>Children who have below average mobility/balance will not exclusively hold the dog's lead.</p> <p>Staff walking with the dog will scan the horizon for hazards and anything which might make the dog run (cats!), regaining control of the lead in these instances.</p>	2	3	6
Children are pulled towards a hazard by the dog	4	2	8	<p>The dog is trained not to damage furniture/scratch carpets, doors etc - this behaviour is to be corrected if exhibited.</p> <p>The dog is to be kept in her crate when left alone.</p> <p>The dog has timetable which ensures sufficient time alone but that she is also well stimulated throughout the day.</p>	3	2	6

Hazard - Damage to school environment

Risk	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
The dog causes damage to the furniture/school	4	2	8	The dog is trained not to damage furniture/scratch carpets, doors etc – this behaviour is to be corrected if exhibited. The dog is to be kept in her crate when left alone. The dog has timetable which ensures sufficient time alone but that she is also well stimulated throughout the day.	3	2	6

Hazard - Financial cost of the dogs upkeep

Risk	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	The dog is the responsibility of Miss Noble who is financially responsible for all of the dog's care and upkeep. The school will provide the equipment required for the dog to fulfil its role in school (crate, bowls, leads etc) Should the dog need further training to be suitable in school, the school will accommodate those costs as the provision of a therapy dog is a key SEND/SEMH intervention. The dog will be insured for health cover and 3rd party injury/accident by Miss Noble.	1	1	1

Hazard - Claim is made against the school about the dog's behaviour

Risk	Control Measures	Likelihood (/5)	Severity (/5)	Risk (/25)
School not adequately covered financially.	The school will hold a sufficient public liability policy to ensure that costs of a claim could be met.	1	5	5

Approval

Risk assessment completed by:	Lelia Noble	Date:	12/9/18
Risk assessment approved by:	Alex Reed	Date:	15/9/18