

Send CofE Primary School

School Dog Risk Assessment

Activity: School Dog		
Risk Assessment Undertaken by: A Johnstone/M McDonnell/H Ward/C Harwood	Start Date: Autumn 2023	Review Date: Autumn 2024
This Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually ready for the next Academic Year and presented to the Governing Body at the first meeting of the Autumn Term.		

Hazard	Who is At Risk	Risk Rating	Control Measures	Review/Edit
Canine Behaviour				
Being knocked over Being scratched Being bitten	Everyone who comes into contact with the dog, especially younger children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are taught about responsible animal handling. • The dog will be monitored by Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood when closely interacting with children – particular care to be taken with children who are less familiar with the dogs • Designated areas will be introduced for children to be involved with the dogs • Mrs Ward and Mrs Harwood are familiar with commands that the dogs respond to, as well as appropriate restraint that can be used (if necessary). • Mrs Ward and Mrs Harwood will always monitor the dog closely when participating in Reading/activity • No dog will ever be allowed to roam freely, within the school building, unattended. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, of any age, will never be left unattended with the dog. • During the school day (8.30 am -3.15pm) the dog will always wear a harness so that restraint can be introduced if necessary. • When moving about the school building, or on the playground, the dog will be on the lead. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At break and lunchtimes, the dog is to be off-lead on the field, only. If children are with the dog, on the field, they are to be on the lead unless Wellbeing Walkers are in attendance (children who are familiar with the dog and have been taught about behaviour around the dog). • Education of the children in understanding the mood, reactions and body-language of the dog is essential. Children will continue to be taught about the dog's perception of their behaviour. In class lessons, and whole-school assemblies will be used to help with this. • Children are taught how to remove themselves from an interaction with the dog that they are uncomfortable with. Older children are taught commands that the dogs will respond to. • The dogs are able to interact with small groups (max. 10) of younger children for prolonged periods. • Any staff who spend time with the dogs are clear on the expectations of their behaviour, and that of adults who are in contact with them. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of regular vet/grooming check-ups, the dogs have their claws clipped so that they are short and less likely to scratch. 	
<p>Dogs being resistant to instructions. Dog displaying unfriendly behaviour</p>	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither dog will never spend more than three continual hours per day in close interaction 'working' with children. During morning lessons, both dogs are given plenty of rest and have access to their sleeping area/crate at all times. • To avoid 'boredom behaviours' being demonstrated, dogs are exercised before school, during a breaktime and at lunchtime. • Both dogs should have a timetabled routine. This is a guideline for the maximum amount of time either dog can spend 'working'. This is a guideline to ensure that no dog is not over 'worked'. • If either dog displays any tired, over-excited, stressed or irritable behaviours, they must be given time to rest. • All adults, and KS2 children are educated in recognising tired/over-excited behaviours and understand how to respect these feelings. • If unfriendly or stressed behaviours are frequent and persistent over a long period of time, the role of the dog within school would be reconsidered. 	

Dog escaping harness/lead/room	All (including dogs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If either dog is sleeping, they should not be disturbed. • Should either dog be in a classroom the door should be closed or a gate across the classroom door. An adult will always check that the gate is secure after it has been used by children/a child. • Dog will not leave the classroom unless their harness and lead are secure. • Either dog will only be let off the lead outside once Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood has checked that the area is secure and there are no children in the area (unless deliberate). • If either dog is to be left alone (short periods only) they must be kept in the respective offices. • Children are educated as to the importance of not allowing Lottie or Mollie off of their lead/out of their sleeping area/out of the classroom without adult permission. 	
Emotional Stress/Fear of Dogs				
Dog being confused by any negative reaction	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child or adult will be forced to interact with the dogs. • During education sessions, fears will be acknowledged and addressed. • Children and adults who are nervous, will be given the option to meet the dogs in a smaller, calmer setting. • Children and adults who are nervous will be offered separate sessions on training and interacting with the dogs if they wish. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both dogs will always wear a harness and short lead when interacting with nervous individuals. 	
Hygiene Control				
Contact with germs from handling/petting dogs	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and children are instructed to wash their hands before and after contact. Water and soap for handwashing are available throughout the school. • If handwashing is not immediately available then hand sanitiser may be used. Hand sanitiser is to be kept in the 'dog kit' should either dog visit classes. This is not an appropriate substitute for handwashing. • Neither dog will be allowed near the school kitchen at all, or in the dining hall at mealtimes. • Both dogs should be vaccinated and are kept up to date in accordance with veterinary recommendation (yearly boosters), a record will be kept of this. 	
Fleas/bites/ticks/worms and other parasites	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flea and worming treatment will be carried out every month. • Additional worming medication is administered every 6 months. • Both dogs are to wear a tick collar (outside of school) in the summer months. They are checked regularly for any they may pick up, and any found would be immediately removed and disposed of. • Regular changing/washing of bedding is in place. • All staff would be alerted to flea bites. 	

Allergic Reactions	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records are checked, staff/parents have been consulted to determine any known allergies to animal fur/saliva before children are introduced to the dogs. • Whilst there is no guarantee that allergies won't be triggered, it will be significantly less likely. • Parents and staff will inform the school of any child with a known dog -fur allergy • Children and staff with dog -fur allergies will be discouraged from directly interacting with either dog. • All members of the school community will be given the opportunity to interact with the dogs, but those with allergies will be able to opt out. • Children and staff with dog -saliva allergies will inform Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood before any interaction with the dogs so that they can prevent licking. • Both dogs will be kept in a well -ventilated room, and children and adults with allergies will not need to be in close proximity with the dog. • If a child should show any signs of an allergic reaction to the dog, then appropriate first aid will be given, and parents informed. 	
Faeces	Staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs will have an outside 'toileting' routine to prevent any accidents in the school building. • No dog -mess will ever be left. Waste is cleared immediately by Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood (or the supervising member of staff) 	

			and this will be disposed of in a designated, 'waste bin'.	
Practical Considerations				
Fire Access	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be led out the building in the event of a fire alarm. This will be Mrs Ward and Mrs Harwood or whichever adult is in charge of the dog at that time. 	
Animal Welfare				
Not meeting legal duty to provide for welfare needs	Owner and Dog		<p>All domestic animals have the legal right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live in a suitable environment. Mollie lives as part of Mrs Ward's family in her home and Lottie lives with Mrs Harwood in her family home. All appropriate living, food, exercise and comfort needs will be met as with any family dog. Eat a suitable diet. Exhibit normal behaviour patterns. Dogs will only be in school during term time. Suitable enrichment activities are provided. If either dog's nature changes which are not deemed suitable to in school, then they will be cared for at home. Be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. Appropriate vet checks, not allowing children to pick up the dog, not placing them in situations which may cause injury and being watchful for choking hazards or poisoning. 	
Financial Responsibilities				
Financial Cost for dog's upkeep	Owner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day to day care, medical bills and insurance become unaffordable. Dogs are ultimately the financial responsibility of their owners 	

			<p>(currently Mrs Ward and Mrs Harwood).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training classes, pet insurance, vet bills etc. will all be paid for by Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood • Insurance is covered by the dog's owner (currently Mrs Ward/Mrs Harwood), and should be kept up to date annually, however the school's RPA Insurance will cover in event of an incident. 	<p>Business Manager will keep copy of Dog Pet Insurance</p> <p>Business Manager: annually in April</p>
Claim made against school for an incident	School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the school's RPA Insurance will cover in event of an incident. 	<p>Business Manager: annually in April</p>

Risk Rating

Red – Not in place

Gold – Some elements are in place

Green – Risk fully met