

Appendix A: School Dog Risk Assessment

September 2024: The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by the Senior Leadership and Governing Body.

Hazard	Risk Factor	Existing Controls Measures
<p>Animal Behaviour: Dog getting over excited when interacting with children. Children get scared by the dog. Children get knocked to the ground. Children get scratched by the dog. Children get bitten by the dog. .</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All staff will be introduced to the dog and the expectations of their interactions with the school dog. The dog will always be in the care of a responsible trained adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises. The dog will always be on the lead outside of the SLT Office or Admin corridor. Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.</p> <p>Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to the children and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE lessons. Pupils will be taught to approach the dog calmly and not from behind. Pupils will be taught how to prevent the dog from becoming overly excited, from chasing them or jumping up. The dog is trained to stand still or be seated when near children.</p> <p>The dog will undergo formal training from the age of 12 weeks with an experienced ability dog trainer.</p> <p>The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment.</p> <p>The dog will undergo official therapy dog training and certification at an appropriate time after he has reached at least 9 months of age.</p> <p>The dog will undergo conditioning to interact with children in a learning environment eg reading sessions, quiet class activities.</p> <p>The dog will attend the vets regularly to ensure he is in good health, claws are kept short, coat is groomed and other health concerns are kept in check eg clean ears, teeth etc.</p>
<p>Dog getting over excited when interacting with parent's / carers' dogs on gates</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The dog will be kept on a short lead / harness. He will be handled by an experienced adult and will be managed during any interaction with other passing dogs. If the dog becomes too excited the dog will be moved away from the path side further away onto the school site so any passing dogs are out of sight or taken indoors to calm down.</p>

Dog gets loose from the cage or the lead	Medium	<p>The dog's crate/rest area will be situated in the SLT Office. It will be big enough to house the dog even when full grown.</p> <p>The lead will be kept maintained and ensure catch is securely attached to body harness.</p> <p>Body harness has a 'grab handle' for additional control and security.</p> <p>The door to the SLT / Admin corridor will be kept closed or barricaded off when dog is in situ and off the lead.</p>
Dog causes allergies to flare up	Medium: Children react to dog hair (dependent on severity of allergy)	<p>The dog's coat is poodle mix so shedding is minimal.</p> <p>The dog's coat will be kept maintained, regularly groomed, cleaned and brushed to remove any potential loose hair.</p> <p>Carpets are daily hoovered and hard floors daily swept/mopped.</p>
Children getting germs from dog	Medium	<p>Children's and adults' hands will be sanitised straight after any contact with the dog.</p> <p>The dog will not attend site when under the weather or poorly.</p> <p>The dog will receive regular health checks by the vets 'Companion Care', be treated for fleas, ticks and worms. Other checks such of the dog eg ears, teeth, coat, eyes, etc will be conducted at minimum weekly by Miss Symonds.</p> <p>The dog will only be allowed to defecate/urinate on the school site in preselected areas which are out of bounds to children (the grass mound at rear of Keeler House and staff carpark).</p> <p>Poo bags are carried by the supervising adult at all times for any accidents.</p> <p>Cleaning materials are kept in the SLT office for prompt clear up if needed for accidents.</p>
Financial cost of dog's upkeep	Low as all financial costs covered by owner	<p>The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Miss Symonds both in a wellbeing and financial aspect. Teddy will be insured by her personally and she will cover all vets bills through 'ManyPets' Pet Insurance. All dog food, treats, cage, harness, lead etc will all be purchased by Miss Symonds.</p> <p>Ashford Dog Training Club have provided the puppy training and guidance is being provided by Dogs' Trust and the Companion Care Vets surgery.</p>
Claim is made against school about the dog	If school or owner not adequately covered financially	<p>Insurance bought to cover claims.</p> <p>Certificate will be kept in office and renewed annually.</p> <p>A certificate of insurance and public liability cover will be held at school in the SLT office.</p>