

NICHOLAS POSTAGTE CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Assessment I	Ref	No:
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Risk assessments should be reviewed annually and in any case when either the current assessment is no longer valid and/or if at any stage there has been significant changes to the specific activity or task. They should be reviewed following an accident, incident or ill-health event in order to verify if the control measures and level of evaluated risk where appropriate or require amendment.

Type of Activity / Process / Operation:										
School Therapy Dog										
Who is at Risk?										
Staff ⊠ Visitors ⊠	Contractors	Pupils ⊠	Caretaker / Site Staff ⊠							
Others ⊠ (please specify)	Therapy Dog									

Department / Location:	St Edward's RC Primary School
Assessor's Name:	Mrs M Brown/Mrs K Fox/Mrs Elizabeth Brady.
Date of Assessment:	1st September 2021
Review Date:	1 st September 2022

General considerations

- There should be a definite educational reason and justification for keeping animals in schools or bringing animals into a school. They should be 'used' and not just for 'decoration'.
- Keeping an animal requires time and commitment. It must be clear who is to look after the animals and who would deputise in their absence
- Pupils must be given training in how to handle animals and must always be closely supervised.
- Animal housing (Crate) must be easy to clean, secure and chosen to meet the needs of the animal.
- All equipment must be kept clean.
- If the animal is ill, alternative arrangement would be made for his care and he would not be allowed back into school until fully recovered.
- School should be aware of any medical issues in school whereby a pupil or member of staff may have sensitivities or potentially suffer allergic reactions. Precautions will need to be put in place to limit contact with these individuals.

COVID19 -

To continue to minimise the spread of Corona Virus, Jack will be initially be incorporated into the Y3/4B class, minimising his own and student exposure.

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands and sanitise after touching Jack. (this is already a part of School routine for handling Jack)

Any items that multiple people use (for example lead, collar, water bowl) will be left in school for school use only.

Any equipment used will be disinfected frequently. We will expand the number of classes/pupils Jack works with over the course of Autumn Term reviewing the risks frequently



POTENTIAL HAZARD		RISK									CONTROL MEASURES		
Identified Hazards	Hazard Effect	Proba	•	х	Severi		=				Actions Taken to Reduce Risk Risk		
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Animal Health Diseases, parasites and animal health	Staff/Students and Visitors Risk of spread of disease/infections			X			=				 Dog to have necessary vaccinations before coming into school. Dog to have regular veterinary checks. Dog to live with family and owner when not in school. Dog will be wormed as per veterinary instructions. Dog to be kept free of fleas and ticks and precautions followed as per veterinary instructions. Dog cage/area so that the dog has an area to relax and sleep at various points of the school day. Dog will not be allowed access to dining area. 		
Bites, cuts and scratches	Staff/Students and Visitors Risk of injury, disease and infection			Х			=				 There will be no unsupervised contact with students. Dog will be closely supervised and staff handling the dog will be trained to understand and recognise the signs of the dog being over stimulated or anxious and will remove the dog to a safe place (Dog Cage/Area) to rest. Staff and students will be made aware of the procedures of meeting and handling the dog (Small groups, hand washing etc). First-aid kit will kept close at hand and first-aiders will be called appropriately and will follow school policy. In the event of a bite (even accidental) parents will be informed immediately. 		
Use of therapy dog on the outside space.	Staff/Students and Visitors Risk of injury, disease and infection.			Х							 There will be no unsupervised contact with students. Dog will be closely supervised and staff handling the dog will be trained to use only designated area (Tarmac or small pitch at either end of KS2 playground) when off lead. All pupils are made aware of his position. Small groups designated to play (KS1 children) and selected KS2 dog handlers will be supervised by designated adult. Staff and students will be made aware of the procedures when Dog is playing with small groups. 		



Noise and barking.	Staff/Students and Visitors - Affecting staff and students who cannot cope with noise.	X	 In the event of salt being used on the Yard – Dog will not be taken outside to prevent damage to his paws. Dog will be supervised when working with other pupils on the yard when walking on a lead or off. Breed of dog (Labrador) are known to be sociable dogs and are often used as school dogs as they are known to be easily trainable and good with children. The dog will be introduced to the students and environment from an early age so will be acclimatised to a noisy environment and therefore reduce the chance of it barking.
Allergy/Phobias	Affecting staff and students who suffer with allergies – potential of skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose or breathing difficulties. Anxiety	X	 Students / staff known to have allergic reactions / phobias to dogs to have restricted access. Good general hygiene and hand washing procedure's followed Alcohol Sanitizer to be available at all times. A post will be placed on school website letting parents know there will be a dog on site so if they have a child with an allergy to let the school know. Dog will be kept cleaned and groomed. Dog cage/area will be placed in an area where flow of children is minimal and controlled. Room where dog is to be kept well ventilated. All bedding, crate and equipment to be cleaned regularly. First-aid procedures to be followed if allergy occurs. Staff to be made aware of when the dog may be in yard or garden areas to ensure students and staff with allergies do not encounter the dog by chance.
Hygiene Infection	Staff, students and visitors Potential spread of infection and disease	Х	 Adequate provision for hand washing (soap & water) readily available. Paper towels provided rather than communal hand towels. Do not allow students to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed. All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered. Soiled bedding disposed of in sealed plastic bags with normal refuse.



				Foodstuffs stored carefully to prevent contamination and infestation.	
Dog excrement & Urine.	Staff, Students & Visitors Potential to spread disease and infection.	X		 Dog will be wormed. Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by the adult with responsibility at the time. Hand washing facilities close to where the dog will be. A bag containing plastic bags, kitchen roll and rubber gloves will be made available to the member of staff walking the dog. 	
Fire drill and evacuation of dog.	Staff – Health & Safety	X		 All staff will be aware of fire procedures when in charge of the dog. Dog's name will be added to the fire staff register in order for check's to be made of safety of the dog. 	
A third party could sue the school for injury caused by the dog.	Staff – Legal implications	x		The school will ensure that the dog is covered under their insurance policy including third party liability insurance.	
Is such risk level deen Have you identified fur FURTHER CONTI		acticable? control the risk?	Yes ⊠ No □ Yes ⊠ No □ Yes □ No ⊠ only as a last resort when it	has proven to be impossible or impractical for the potential has	zard



Probability Key:	Severity Key	<u>Key:</u>	Residual Risk
L = No Chance	L = No injury/Minor first aid	L X L = L	Low = Acceptable
M = Medium Chance	M = First aid treatment, Doctor or Hospital.	L X M = M L X H = M	Medium & High Requires additional
H = High Chance, Very High Chance	H = Major injury/Reportable Accident.	$M \times M = M$	Action to reduce risk
		$M \times H = H$	
		H X H = H	