

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR:	Having a school dog.	
Establishment: St Edward's R.C Primary	Assessment by: Mrs L Rovardi, Mrs E Brady	Date: 19.09. 2025
1st Review Date Due : September 2026	Manager Approval: Mrs M Brown	Date: 19.10.2018



Hazard / Risk	Who is at Risk?	How can the hazards cause harm?	Normal Control Measures	Are Normal Control Measures Y/N/NA	
				In Place	Adequate
<p>General considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>always</u> 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. 					
Animal Health Diseases , parasites and animal health	Staff/Students and Visitors	Disease/infection s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	

Bites, cuts and scratches	Staff/Students and Visitors	Disease/infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in the PLC 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. 	Y Y Y Y	
Noise and barking.	Staff/Students and Visitors	Affecting staff and students who cannot cope with noise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Y Y	

Allergy/ Phobias	Staff/Students and Visitors	skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose or breathing difficulties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	
Hygiene Infection	Staff/Pupils and Visitors	Disease/infection s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision for hand washing (soap hot 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. 	Y Y Y Y Y	

Dog excrement & Urine.	Staff/Students and Visitors	Disease/infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 carried by the member of staff walking the dog. 	Y Y Y Y Y	
Fire drill and evacuation of dog.	Staff	Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Y Y	
A third party could sue the school for injury caused by the dog.	Staff	Legal implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will ensure that the dog is covered under their insurance policy including third party liability insurance. 	Y	

Additional Control Measures <i>(to take account of local/individual circumstances including changes such as working practices, equipment, staffing levels).</i>	Action by Whom <i>(list the name of the person/people who have been designated to conduct actions)</i>	Action by When <i>(set timescales for the completion of the actions – remember to prioritise them)</i>	Action Completed <i>(record the actual date of completion for each action listed)</i>	Residual Risk Rating
<p>Further guidance is provided in CLEAPSS guidance documents: L56 Housing and Keeping Animals Laboratory Handbook (section 14.1). PS55 bringing pets and other animals into schools</p> <p>Growing school 'Get your hands Dirty' New resource to help teachers consider the issues involved in growing plants/ caring for animals in school http://www.growingschools.org.uk/resources/resource.aspx?id=298</p>				
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RESIDUAL RISK RATING	ACTION REQUIRED
VERY HIGH (VH) Strong likelihood of fatality / serious injury occurring	The activity must not take place at all. You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating.
HIGH (H) Possibility of fatality/serious injury occurring	You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating. Seek further advice, e.g. from your H&S Team
MEDIUM (M) Possibility of significant injury or over 3 day absence occurring	If it is not possible to lower risk further, you will need to consider the risk against the benefit. Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely.
LOW (L) Possibility of minor injury only ✓	No further action required.