

**BHVC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**DOGS IN SCHOOL**  
**RISK ASSESSMENT**

**Introduction:**

The value of pet ‘therapy’ is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

The rationale behind this decision was as follows:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow.
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children’s social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with the dog is invited to write to Mrs Howells, Head teacher and inform her of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with the puppy as her vet will be responsible for vaccinations completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. A copy of the dog’s health records will be updated and kept in school. The dog will also be insured.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk 1 - 5</b>	<b>Controls in place</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to the ground.	2	<p>The dog will always be in the care of the designated handler or a “responsible adult”. “Responsible Adult” shall mean any member of staff who has read the policy fully, received appropriate training and is aware of the risks and responsibilities to both children and staff.</p> <p>The dog will never be left unattended. The dog will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.</p> <p>The dog must not be passed to any member of staff not deemed a “responsible adult” as defined above.</p> <p>Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.</p>	July 2021
	Child scratched by dog. Child bitten by dog.	4		
	Child/adult tripping over the dog			

			<p>The dog will always be on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk by the designated handler or responsible adult while the children are in school.</p> <p>The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure her claws are kept short.</p> <p>Children will be taught how to safely stroke or feed the dog a treat if they want to interact with her.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught about the consequences of their actions if they do not follow directions.</p> <p>Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.</p> <p>The dog will undergo formal training from the age of 14 weeks with an experienced dog trainer. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as she progresses through her weekly training. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog.</p>	
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			<p>The designated handler will ensure the dog attends the vets regularly to ensure she is in good health and that her claws are kept short. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>The room where the dog is kept will have a sign on the door to inform others that the dog is present.</p> <p>The room where the dog is kept must have a lock on it out of the reach of children, and the door must be locked if the dog is in there on their own.</p> <p>All members of the school community to be vigilant to look where they're walking to avoid tripping over the dog.</p> <p>Dog to be kept on a short lead if walking around school with a member of staff.</p>	
Dog gets out of Head teachers office, or off his lead	Dog gets out of school. Children with phobia's become upset	2	<p>The dog will remain in the HT's office when not working with staff/children.</p> <p>There will be a sign on the door to remind staff of the dog's presence, so doors are not left open when entering or leaving.</p> <p>Should the dog get out or off her lead, the Head, Deputy, school clerks, premises manager or ALNCo will be radioed to return the dog. These members of staff are: Jane Howells Alison Coombs Leanne Mason Kath Whitcombe</p>	

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<p>The dog causing allergies.</p>	<p>Children or staff have allergic reactions</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The dog is an F1 Cockerpoo which is a non moulting breed to reduce the chance of any allergic reactions</p> <p>Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school.</p> <p>A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will kept in each classroom and a full list in the school office.</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog under the supervision of the designated handler or responsible adult and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog and any open skin wounds must be covered.</p>	<p>July 2021</p>
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<p>Children getting germs from the dog.</p>	<p>Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.</p>	<p>1</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 way. Poo bags will be carried by any staff member handling the dog.</p> <p>She will be trained to toilet in an area of the grounds that children have limited access to. The area will be disinfected as required.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a record will be kept of this. Evidence must be recorded and kept in school.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at 4 week intervals and worming every 3 months. This is recorded and evidence must be kept in school.</p> <p>If the dog is ill, she will remain at home until better.</p>	<p>July 2021</p>
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			<p>The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.</p>	
Noise/barking	Some children unable to cope with the noise	1	<p>Cockerpoo's are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children.</p> <p>The dog is being introduced in to the school environment from an early age so will be used to a noisy environment so is less likely to bark.</p> <p>Extra orientation sessions in place for specific children.</p> <p>Some children will have ear defenders if needed.</p>	July 2021
Dog phobia	Pupils/staff/visitors who have a fear of dogs	1	<p>Parents will be asked if a child is scared to be in close contact with dogs.</p> <p>Parents will be given the option to request that their child doesn't come into close contact with the dog.</p> <p>Visitors will be advised that there is a dog onsite and will not be expected to work where they may come into contact with it. Dog to be removed from an area if visitor needs access.</p>	

<p>Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.</p>	<p>School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The dog is the responsibility of The Head teacher and she is responsible for her care and day to day costs.</p> <p>The dog will be insured by the school, under the LA's Public Liability Insurance.</p> <p>All vets costs are covered by 'Bought By Many' under her private insurance</p> <p>Governors have agreed for school to fund any dog training costs and any assessments needed for the dog to work safely in school.</p> <p>Some costs, such as treats, toys and a bed while she's in school will be funded by the school.</p>	<p>July 2021</p>
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Key: 1 Low risk 3 medium risk of injury 5 high risk of injury