



Risk-Benefit Assessment and Operating Procedure

Activity	Attending School Dog
Persons at risk	Pupils, staff, voluntary helpers & members of public

Risk-Benefit Assessment

Benefits associated with the activity

- A calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties;
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduce stress and improved self-esteem;
- Encouraging expression and participation in more withdrawn children
- Fostering a sense of responsibility
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest and enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals;
- Encouraging respect and thereby improving pupils' relationship with each other, parents and teachers;
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life;
- Helping work undertaken with the most vulnerable children, and educational improvements with low achievers.
- Helping children build confidence in reading
- Helping children who suffer bereavement or who are upset in any way and in need of calm, comfort and space before being able to tell an adult what has upset them.

Identify the hazards

- Pupils, staff and visitors may be harmed or upset by dogs biting, jumping up or scratching during play or if they become distressed.
- If dogs become tired, their behaviour may become unpredictable and they may lose their enjoyment in their work.
- Pupils, staff and visitors may have an allergic reaction to the dogs.
- Illnesses can be passed on to pupils, staff and visitors through dog urine and faeces.
- Illness can be passed on to pupils, staff and visitors through fleas, worms and ticks.
- Pupils may become distressed if they are phobic of dogs. They may injure the dogs or others in their panic.
- Dogs may be harmed by the unpredictable behaviour of pupils e.g. they may be hit, kicked or shouted at.
- Dogs may slip on the shiny surfaces e.g. hall and injure itself.
- Diseases maybe spread through the dogs being in food preparation area.



What measures are in place to reduce the risk

- His contact with pupils and visitors will be carefully monitored by her owner/headteacher at all times. If he becomes over excited whilst with pupils/visitors she will be removed from the situation and given time to calm down as best suited to the individual dog.
- Dogs will have places where they will be able to rest without being disturbed e.g. headteacher's office. They will only be work with children for short periods of time and will have regular quiet times throughout the day even when they are not interacting with children.
- All children/staff with allergies to be identified. Visitors will be warned that there are dogs on site. Children/staff with allergies will be kept away from the dogs. Everyone will wash their hands after contact with the dogs.
- Dogs will be walked and toileted before coming on site. There will be a designated area for the toileting of the dogs which they will be taken to at regular intervals throughout the day. Dog faeces will be cleaned up and placed in the designated bin on the edge of the car park.
- Dogs will follow a strict programme of worm and flea/tick treatment before coming on site and this will be adhered to throughout the time the dog are part of the Safe Dog Assessment programme. Dogs will follow vaccination programme and will have signed forms from their veterinary practice to verify this. If the dog shows any sign of being unwell it will not come back on site until it has a clean bill of health.
- Dog handler to be aware of pupils who are frightened/phobic of dogs. These pupils will not need to have contact with the dog unless it is part of a programme to help overcome this will full parent consent. There will be no expectation that all staff will be involved in working alongside the dog/owner- only those who express an interest will be involved.
- Children will work with the dogs in a safe controlled environment. There will always be staff that know the children well supporting the sessions and the dog owner will be responsible for the dogs wellbeing at all times. Pupils will have input beforehand in the appropriate way to interact with dogs.
- Dogs will not be allowed in the school kitchen area.

Safety equipment

Dog bed, dog collar and lead, poo bags and antibacterial spray

Staff member(s) producing this risk-benefit assessment

N Danylyk

Date of this review

September 2022