

Risk Assessment Form

Risk assessment form for (area of risk):	
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Position:	
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How do we assess the risk

LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	2	4	6	8	10	12
3	3	6	9	12	15	18
4	4	8	12	16	20	24
5	5	10	15	20	25	30
6	6	12	18	24	30	36

Likelihood	Impact
1 - Extremely unlikely	1- Negligible Impact
2 - Unlikely	2 - Minor impact
3 - Possible	3 - Short term (1-2 years)
4 - Likely	4 - Medium term (2-4 years)
5 - Highly Likely	5 - Long term
6 - Certain	6 - Fundamental

Rationale:

There is an increasing body of research to support the benefit of a dog in school. In schools across the country, Reading Dogs are being used to help children develop fluency in reading and Therapy Dogs provide comfort and reassurance to children with anxiety and self-confidence issues. Increasingly in schools, it is becoming recognised that children's emotional wellbeing is at the root of positive behaviour and success with socialising as well as in the classroom. A dog can support children who are anxious about school and could be the reason that they want to come in every morning. Children with trouble managing their behaviour could learn to care for the dog and the dog could be helpful in de-escalating anger. Reading dogs can help boost children's confidence and fluency. Caring for an animal can help children to learn about responsibility and can help children to learn how to treat animals safely and with compassion. Dogs are great fun to have around and can bring a caring, family atmosphere to a school.

Significant Hazards and Associated Risks	Those who might be harmed	Residual Risk Rating	Control Measures
Hygiene - Handling the dog	Staff and children	1	<p>Staff and children will be encouraged to wash their hands after handling the dog.</p> <p>Staff and children will be taught good hygiene habits around animals such as avoiding the dog's mouth area.</p>
Hygiene - Dog mess in playground / on school site	Staff and children	2	<p>Dog to be taken for a walk before coming into school to minimise need to excrete on site.</p> <p>Dog to be offered toileting on grass at the front of school by the car park away from children.</p> <p>When the dog is walked at breaktime, dog mess will be cleared up immediately and disposed of in a safe manner. Poo bags will be carried by the member of staff walking Buddy.</p>
Hygiene - Parasites	Dog, staff and children	2	<p>Dog will be up to date with their vaccinations, worming and flea treatments in accordance with the vet's recommendations.</p> <p>Dog checked regularly for parasites.</p> <p>Dog will be kept clean and well groomed.</p> <p>Dog's bedding will be regularly washed.</p>
Hygiene - Contact with dog sick	Staff and children	2	<p>If Buddy unwell, he will not visit the school.</p> <p>If Buddy is sick in school, the sick will be cleared up immediately and the area will be disinfected.</p>
Allergic reaction	Staff and children	2	<p>Buddy has a coat that produces very little dander which reduces the risk of allergic reaction. His coat is low shedding and as close to hypo-allergenic as possible.</p> <p>All parents will be notified about the school dog and given the opportunity to advise the school of their child's allergies to or known fear of dogs.</p> <p>A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will be kept centrally.</p> <p>Children/staff with allergies will be able to opt out of situations of interaction with the dog.</p> <p>Buddy will not be allowed in rooms where staff/children have allergies.</p> <p>Good hygiene routines and hand washing to be followed by all who come in contact with the dog.</p> <p>Sign displayed in office to show that Buddy is in the building.</p>
Dog phobia – anxiety caused by close proximity to dog – including those with	Staff and children	1	<p>All parents will be notified about the school dog and given the opportunity to advise the school of known fear of dogs.</p>

<p>religious beliefs that do not allow contact with dogs</p>			<p>Sign displayed in office to show that Buddy is in the building. Visitors advised and the dog removed if necessary to a suitable alternative room.</p> <p>If an issue is pre-determined, the dog will not come into school that day.</p> <p>Buddy will be well-trained and well-socialised with people of all ages.</p>
<p>Scratched – dog over excited in play or jumping up.</p>	<p>Staff and children</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Buddy will be accompanied in public spaces by an adult that knows him well. He will never be allowed to roam around the school.</p> <p>Buddy will be well-trained and well-socialised with people of all ages.</p> <p>Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog. Staff and children will be taught how to approach the dog safely.</p> <p>Children only pat or stroke the dog when he is stood or sat still.</p> <p>Children and staff will be instructed not to feed Buddy.</p> <p>Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction. Rules to then be reinforced by all staff.</p> <p>Buddy’s claws will be kept trimmed.</p> <p>Buddy will be kept on the lead whilst walking around the school.</p>
<p>Dog bite</p>	<p>Staff and children</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Main handler (Mrs Grice) is trained in working with children and are familiar with Buddy and her behaviours.</p> <p>Children are warned of the hazards of animals e.g. not tormenting the dog, not approaching a sleeping dog, recognising signs Buddy is not happy.</p> <p>Children taught how to approach Buddy safely.</p> <p>Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction.</p> <p>Mrs Grice to regularly monitor the dog’s temperament, behaviour and mood.</p> <p>Buddy to be supervised and on a lead at all times when moving around the school.</p> <p>Handler or member of staff to say ‘No’ firmly if mouth contact looks likely or if a change in mood is detected. Buddy to be removed if any mouth contact looks likely.</p>
<p>Financial cost e.g. cost of feeding or a claim made against the school.</p>	<p>School</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The dog is owned by and is the responsibility of Mrs Grice who will pay for his upkeep.</p> <p>Buddy is personally insured by Mrs Grice on an annual policy.</p>

			Buddy's work at school is covered by the school's RPA liability insurance.
Animal welfare – negative behaviour caused by stress, bites or scratches	Buddy	2	<p>Ensure Buddy has time away from the children on his chair undisturbed.</p> <p>Ensure Buddy has time in a quiet space without any children.</p> <p>Ensure Buddy only interacts with the children in short bursts and is not crowded by children/adults.</p> <p>Ensure Buddy has sufficient rest breaks, including time to run around outside and toys to keep him occupied.</p>
Fire alarm - evacuation	Buddy	1	<p>Buddy signed in as a member of staff, so fire marshals know when he is onsite.</p> <p>Mrs Grice to evacuate Buddy from the building. If Mrs Grice is unavailable, a member of staff in SMT office is to take Buddy and evacuate the building.</p>