



## **Martha – The School Dog (Information and risk assessment)**

### **Introduction:**

Current research is suggesting that a 'companion' animal in school can make a difference to the well-being of both staff and pupils. With this in mind, Chew Stoke Church School has become the daytime home for Martha, a golden doodle dog.

In order for Martha to be successfully and safely integrated into the life of the school, a risk assessment has been undertaken and is outlined below. The safety of children and Martha are paramount. We must also ensure that a dog in school can have as natural a life as possible while in the school building.

The following precautions have been undertaken:

1. Research into the most appropriate breed indicates that golden doodles are well suited to working and playing with children.
2. Visits were undertaken to the puppy's home to see how she interacted with the children and family there.
3. The dog is regularly groomed and checked for any infections or illnesses.
4. Visits to the vet take place regularly and she has and will continue to have all necessary inoculations.
5. Martha is wormed regularly.
6. Martha's claws are trimmed to reduce the risk of scratching.
7. She has plenty of exercise. She is exercised before working with children.

Martha has undertaken puppy training classes run by Eye – 2 - Eye training company. Work is also being undertaken to ensure that children know how to approach dogs and how to behave when dogs are around.

Martha lives with Mr Hewett when not at school and he will ensure that Martha is healthy and fit to be in school at all times. She is registered with a vet in Yatton and is up to date (and will be kept up to date) with worming and immunisations.

We appreciate that not all families and children are comfortable with dogs and will respect parental wishes for any child not to come into direct contact with Martha. Please notify the office if this is the case.

Martha will be on a lead when with children except in controlled supervised circumstances. She will not be allowed to toilet anywhere on the playground area and any 'mess' will be cleaned up and safely disposed of.

Hazard	Risk	Risk 1-5	Likelihood 1 - 5	Risk assessment (risk x likelihood)	Controls	Due to controls revised risk	Review and date
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children, potentially leading to:	<p>Child being knocked down</p> <p>Child being scratched</p> <p>Child bitten by dog</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p>	<p>The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises.</p> <p>Children will not be left alone with the dog.</p> <p>The dog will be on her lead when out of the office area, except when working specifically with a group of children.</p> <p>Children will be taught how to handle themselves around dogs in order to prevent behaviour that might over-excite.</p> <p>Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.</p> <p>The dog will undergo formal training with an experienced trainer and this will be reinforced by all adults in school.</p> <p>Pupils have been, and continue to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children and forms part of the ethos of the school</p> <p>The dog will be socialised with other dogs, adults and with children of all ages.</p> <p>All staff members have information regarding the correct way to handle the dog.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p>	Autumn term 2025
The dog becomes loose from her lead		1	2	L	<p>The dog will be kept mostly in Mr Hewett's office during the day where she has plenty of space to walk around.</p> <p>If the dog is loose, a designated member of staff will come and put the dog back into its school home.</p> <p>Children will be taught how to react if the dog is loose in order to prevent jumping.</p> <p>The designated members of staff who will be called upon if the dog gets loose or needs attention are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Hewett</li> <li>2. Mrs Dagger</li> <li>3. Mrs Burgin</li> </ol>	L	Autumn term 2025
Dog hair causing	Children	2	2	M	Parents have been asked to let the school know of any known allergies		Autumn

allergic reaction	have allergic reactions				including reactions to animals.  Children will have the option to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.  Children are taught to wash their hands after handling the dog.	L	term 2025
Children catching germs from the dog	Children/staff contract diseases carried by dogs	1	1	L	Any defecation will be cleared up immediately and disposed of safely. The area will be disinfected with a suitable disinfectant.  All immunisations are kept up to date and a register of this is kept. Flea treatment is carried out every 6 weeks.  Worming is carried out in line with European vet guidelines at 6 monthly intervals.  The dog will never go into the school kitchen	L	Autumn term 2025
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford Ongoing costs of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills	1	1	L	The dog is the financial responsibility of Mr Hewett and he is responsible for all of the dog's care.  The school will hold public liability insurance to cover the dog coming into school.	L	Autumn term 2025

**Assessment review date: September 2027**