

Sitwell Infant School – School Dog Risk Assessment



Risk Assessment Title		Assessor name	Assessment date	Review date
School Dog Risk Assessment		Kirstey Peart	December 2021	Weekly
How communicated to staff	Email	Date communicated		3 rd January 2022

Ref	Tasks, Issue	People carry out tasks or those at risk	Our Safety Measures
(a)	Awareness of policies and procedures	Staff, visitors, children, contractors, parents, governors	- The Headteacher ensures that all staff, and where appropriate, children and their parents, are aware of and adhere to the following school policies: - Health and Safety Policy - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy - Behavioural Policy - Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy - The Headteacher considers whether the school needs to register the dog as a performance animal, in accordance with the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. If yes, the Headteacher calls the LA and follows local procedures to register the dog. - The School Business Manager ensures that the school's insurance covers using the dog for the specific planned activities. - The Headteacher ensures that the dog is cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
(b)	Dog's welfare	Staff, visitors, children, parents, governors	- The dog has access to fresh, clean water at all times. - The dog has access to a cool and quiet place where it can be left undisturbed. - Children leave the dog alone when instructed by members of staff. - The dog's welfare is considered as a priority when planning the activities that it will participate in. - If an activity risks the dog's welfare, the activity is amended.

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			- Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in, e.g. if the dog is participating in a school performance, the audience is instructed not to clap until the dog has left the stage. - The Headteacher ensures that the dog has adequate and frequent toilet breaks and any waste is appropriately disposed of. - The dog is not over-stimulated, as this can lead to potentially dangerous behaviour. - The dog is not made to participate in potentially distressing activities. - The school complies with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. - The dog is familiar with the members of staff and children who are participating in the activity with the dog. - Flash photography is not used when the dog is present. - The dog is given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area; this will be in the Headteacher's office. - The Headteacher ensures that the dog is fit to participate in specific activities and is not brought into the school if it is unwell. - If the dog becomes unwell while at school, the dog's owner (Headteacher) takes it home. - Before any activity is carried out, the Headteacher ensures everyone participating in the activity understands how to treat and behave around the dog, e.g. not using flash photography, not shouting or clapping and not running around. - Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dog.
(c)	Site security	Staff, visitors, children, contractors, parents	- The Headteacher is responsible for the dog whilst in school; the dog will not be in school when she is not. - The site manager ensures that the site is secure and that precautions are in place to limit the chance of the dog getting loose. - The dog is kept on a lead when it is not in its housing or in a secure location. - The Headteacher ensures that all appropriate doors are closed when the dog is participating in an activity, e.g. in a school hall.
(d)	Evacuation procedures	Staff, visitors,	Where necessary, the school's lockdown and evacuation procedures are reviewed to ensure it includes provisions for the dog.

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		children, contractors, parents	The person handling the dog during specified activities is responsible for the dog's safety during a lockdown or evacuation.
(e)	Disobedience and dangerous behaviour	Staff, visitors, children, contractor, parents	- The handler (Headteacher) is equipped and trained to react to and control any dangerous behaviour. - Children are not expected to handle the dog unless: - Their parents have provided permission. - They feel safe and confident in doing so. - They have received training to handle the dog. - The dog's obedience is ensured as far as reasonably possible; however, staff, children, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable. - The Headteacher ensures that a plan is in place for if the dog is unable to carry out an activity, e.g. if the dog is stressed, and participating in the activity would cause further distress or could lead to dangerous behaviour. - If the dog is not behaving appropriately during an activity, e.g. it is barking excessively or running away, the Headteacher removes the dog and a contingency plan is implemented.
(f)	Parent notification/permission	Staff, visitors, children, contractors, parents	- The Headteacher informs parents that the dog will be present on the school's premises. - Parents are informed of the activities that the dog will be participating in, e.g. the dog will be performing in a school production or used as a therapy dog. - The Headteacher obtains consent from parents for pupils to be in proximity with, or to handle, the dog. - Parents are informed if they are likely to come into contact with the dog, e.g. at a school performance or in the playground.
(g)	Dog's health	Staff, visitors, children, contractors, parents	- The dog's designated handler is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on the school premises. - The handler is responsible for permitting people to touch the dog. - The dog is permitted to go in the Headteacher's office, which is kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, children, staff and visitors. - The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises. - The dog is fully inoculated.

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			• The dog goes to the vet for a termly check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases. • On hot days, the handler ensures there are appropriate provisions in place to keep the dog cool and ensure the dog avoids too much activity during the hottest part of the day.
(h)	Hygiene	Staff, visitors	• The dog is suitably toilet trained. • The designated area for the dog to defecate is situated away from children and staff. • All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a clinical waste bag, and disposed of into a clinical waste bin. • The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces. • Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags and placed into a clinical waste bin. • The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. • Any children, staff and visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing facilities are provided throughout the school. • Anyone with an exposed wound who touches the dog has the wound suitably covered. • If the dog is ill with an infection or a disease, it does not return to the school until it has recovered. • Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog.
(i)	Injuries	Staff, children, parents	• The dog is well trained and is used to coming into close contact with people. • Children, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. • Children, staff and visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dog. • The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. • Children, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated timeslots. • The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people when needed. • The dog is trained to not pull on the lead or jump up at people.
(j)	Dog's housing and equipment	Staff, children	• The Headteacher ensures that the dog has housing that meets its physical and psychological needs. • The Headteacher ensures that the dog's housing is: • Secure, e.g. escape proof. • Clean and free from parasites and vermin.

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			• Free from hazards, e.g. sharp edges. • Well-ventilated. • Sheltered from extreme weather. • Set at a suitable temperature, humidity and light level. • Sheltered from noises that may upset it. • Capable of providing a darkened sleeping area. • The Headteacher ensures that the dog's housing has: • A comfortable resting area. • A suitable amount of clean bedding material. • The Headteacher ensures that the dog is able to: • Lie fully stretched out. • Turn around without touching either the walls or the ceiling. • Stand in its natural posture. • Move in its natural manner. • Rest comfortably. • All dog's bedding/housing is checked for defects on a weekly basis by the Headteacher. • All dog equipment is stored in the Headteacher's office when not in use. • The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips. • Any spillages from the dog's bowls are wiped up immediately.
(k)	Allergies	Children, staff, parents, visitors, contractors	• Children and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dog. • All children, staff and visitors are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog. • All children, staff and visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog. • A supply of antihistamine tablets/medicine is kept in the office in case anyone has an allergic reaction. This will only be administered to children following parental consent if needed. • The Headteacher establishes whether parents have allergies to dogs, and activities where parents may come into contact with the dog, e.g. at a school performance, are amended as necessary.
(l)	Phobias	Children, staff,	• Children and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dog. • The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.

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		parents, visitors, contractors	During busy times, such as playtimes and lunchtimes, the dog is kept in a safe and secure area away from any commotion.
SPECIFICALLY LINKED TO COVID-19 AND FURTHER RESTRICTIONS BEING PUT INTO PLACE			
(m)	Awareness of policies and procedures	Staff, children, parents, visitors	- The Headteacher ensures that all appropriate staff, children and their parents, are aware of and adhere to the risk assessment relating to COVID-19 at all times. - The Headteacher considers whether it is safe to resume visits or sessions and postpones them where necessary, e.g. if the dog or staff member is unwell.
(n)	Dog's health and welfare	Staff, children	- The handler is aware of the symptoms that coronavirus could present in dogs and monitors the dog's health at all times. - If the dog becomes unwell whilst at the school, the handler calls the vet and keeps the dog away from children, staff and any members of the public. Gloves and a face covering are worn when caring for the dog. - If coronavirus is suspected, the handler arranges a test with the vet. - Visits and sessions are postponed if the dog is unwell or has tested positive for coronavirus, and the dog is kept at its designated home until it has recovered. - If the handler presents symptoms of coronavirus or tests positive, they remain at home with the dog for 10 days and restrict contact with the dog as much as possible. If they must interact with the dog, they wear a face covering and gloves. - Visits and sessions resume only when all of the following criteria apply: - The dog has not shown symptoms consistent with those of coronavirus for at least 72 hours without medical management. - It has been 14 days since the dog's last positive test. - It has been 10 days since the handler's symptoms began or, if no symptoms were present, 10 days since their positive test result. - The dog is not wiped or sprayed with any disinfectants or chemicals that are not approved for use on animals. Staff understand that coronavirus is not known to transfer via animal fur. - Face coverings are not put on the dog as this can cause harm. - The dog is not allowed to lick or give 'kisses' to any individuals.

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(o)	Infection control	Staff	• Contact with the dog is limited only to those participating in the session or visit. • Sessions may be limited to smaller groups if necessary. • Where appropriate, groups are organised in line with the existing child bubbles used in school. • Before and after each contact with the dog, all individuals wash their hands – individuals do not touch any part of their face with unwashed hands. • Individuals who are, or have been, displaying symptoms of coronavirus do not come into contact with the dog until they have fully recovered. • Individuals who have weakened immune systems are advised to stay away from the dog; however, if contact is necessary, they wear a face covering at all times. • The handler and the dog do not move around the school during busy times and stay within their allocated room as much as possible. • Where possible, the windows of the allocated room are kept open to improve air flow. • All allocated rooms are cleaned before and after use for visits and sessions. • The dog's lead, collar, harness and other supplies are disinfected regularly. • Items that are usually handled by multiple people, e.g. toys and blankets, are not used during sessions or visits. • Individuals are not permitted to handle objects that could go in the dog's mouth, e.g. treats or toys.
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Notes of ongoing issues or concerns relating to this assessment.

- Initial letter to parents sent out on 9th December. Parents asked to send response back to school before Friday 7th January.
- Planned for Alf to begin attending school from Monday 10th January.