



# School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

**Purpose**

**Introduction**

**Interactions with students and staff**

**Students and staff interactions with the school dog**

**Hygiene and Health**

**Activities involving the school dog, eg walking.**

## Purpose

1. **Dogs teach children responsibility.** Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
2. **Dogs teach children patience.** Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
3. **Dogs teach children compassion.** Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
4. **Dogs teach children about socialisation.** Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).
5. **Improved attendance.** In many schools that have introduced a school dog attendance has improved.
6. **Reading success.** By reading to a dog many reluctant and nervous readers significantly improve their word reading and comprehension.
7. **Dogs are fun.** Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.

## Introduction

The St Luke's Academy Dog '**Willow**' lives with our Assistant Principal, Mr Green, and his family as their pet. Willow was named after the famous book ' The Wind in the Willows' and will become St Luke's reading/therapy dog.

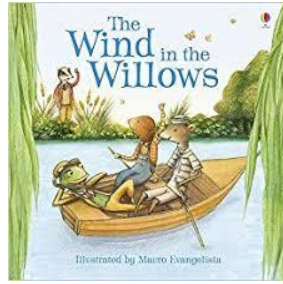
Willow is a very caring and well behaved dog who has the right temperament to work well at St Luke's Academy.

Willow's mother is a black Labrador called Star and her father is a yellow Labrador called Dave.

Willow has insurance, this means she can come into school. Willow has regular visits to the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to her diet to ensure she remains a healthy.

It is really important to remember to approach Willow in a calm manner, waiting for her to come to you, avoiding large/sudden movements and keeping our noise levels down.

You must wash your hands after coming into contact with Willow.



## Interaction with pupils and staff

To ensure the dog interacts appropriately at all time

Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating low / medium / high	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
School dog biting a child or adult	child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites.	The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there will be limited danger. Willow lives with Mr Green and his family, they handle her all of the time to ensure that she is used to interactions with children.	Low	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in an agreed way.
Jumping up/scratching	If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark.	The temperament of Willow and the training programme involves not jumping up, with praise given when successful. Parents have been contacted about the introduction of a school dog and asked to let the school know if they don't want their child to	Medium	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Willow will be under control of an authorised adult.

		have contact with Willow.		
Running loose	If the school dog was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property	The school dog will be contained in a safe place for some of the day (office). When out and about the school dog will be supervised by an adult, a lead when appropriate and be trained to follow instructions.	Low	Monitor that office is effective, And lead is working appropriately.
Negative interaction with children and adults	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children and staff could be scratched.	No interaction is allowed without authorisation. Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour. Praise given to reinforce the correct behaviour.	Medium	Ensure the dog is approached in the correct manner.
Destruction of materials	Labradors can be chewy. If allowed Willow may chew and destroy some school materials and resources.	School dog to be supervised at all times when out of cage or office. She will have her own toys to play with and school resources removed if needed.	Low	Monitor that balls and toys used correctly.

### **Students and staff interaction with the school dog**

To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	low / medium / high	<b>Is anything further needed?</b>

Incorrect/ inconsistent interaction with dog	If a child/adult interact with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction.	Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation.	Medium	If there are any inconsistencies in the approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped.
Use of rewards and treats	Children and adults could be harmd if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat. Adults and children must clean their hands after handling treats.	Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation. Hand to be washed afterwards.	Low	Reminders about washing hands. Treats to be locked away, only to be used when authorised.
Students and staff knowledge of interaction with a dog	If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves.	All students and staff to be introduced to the dog and shown what to do: - calm manner - waiting for her to come to you. - avoid large/sudden movements - keep noise levels low.	Medium	Monitor how well students and staff approach and interact with Willow.

## Hygiene and Health

To ensure that students, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify</b>	<b>Who might be</b>		low /	<b>Is anything</b>

<b>the hazards</b>	<b>harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	<b>medium / high</b>	<b>further needed?</b>
Worms / Fleas	If the school dog is not treated for worm and fleas there is a chance germs can be transferred to humans.	School dog will be treated at a local vets for regular jabs. Flea and worming programme to be followed.	Low	Monitor vet visits and Flea and worming programme.
Faeces	If a student or adult come into contact with the school dogs faeces some germs could be transferred.	The school dog will only be walked under supervision. Faeces will be collected correctly using a dog bag and disposed of appropriately.	Low	Any faeces found on the school site must be reported immediately, so it can be disposed of. Hands washed immediately.
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell.	Students will not be in contact with the dog if we receive a negative response from parents or guardians. If a student has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the student.	Medium	
Contact with food preparation areas	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	The school dog will be in a contained area and/or supervised at all times. The school dog will never enter the school kitchens.	Low	
Cleaning hands after interacting	If hands are not cleaned students and	All students and staff will clean their hands after	Low	Remind students and staff to

with the school dog	staff could become unwell	interaction with the school dog.		clean their hands.
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## Activities involving the school dog, including walking

To ensure that the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	low / medium / high	<b>Is anything further needed?</b>
Walking the dog on and off the lead	Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is offsite	If the school dog is taken offsite the normal risk assessment procedure will take place. No children will take the lead unless authorised by an accompanying adult. No students to interact with the school dog when she is walking unless permission is given	Medium	Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around the school during breaks.
Visits to classroom	If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become excited or distressed.	The school dog will initially only do class visits with Mr T Green & Miss C Dougan. Students in the classroom will need to follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop.	Medium	Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or TA.
School events	If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become excited or distressed.	The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of a supervising adult.	Low	Monitor the dog's reaction to the school event. If the school events are too overwhelming



				the school dog may not attend.
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Please contact Mr Green at St Luke's Academy if you have any questions or concerns.

Name: T Green	Completed date: Sept 2022
Signature: <i>T Green</i>	Review date: Sept 2025