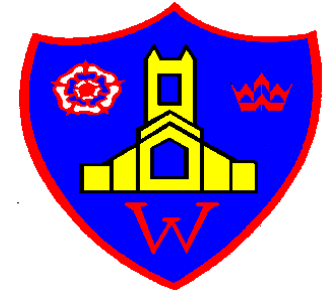


Walmsley CE Primary School

Animals in School Risk Assessment



Background

The rationale to have a School Dog is as follows:

1. For the school to have a pet that is able to live as naturally as conditions will allow.
2. For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
3. To have a pet that the children can interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

The dog will live with Miss Browning in her home in the first instance, and will be introduced to the school environment and the children gradually. The school team will be responsible for the upkeep of vaccinations and the immunisation programme, including rabies and worming treatments. A register of the dog's annual health check will be kept both by school and the vets' surgery.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children, but that for the majority it has the potential to provide multiple positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the school dog will be invited to inform school of their wishes in writing.

This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of the school dog will be evaluated by the School Leadership Team.



PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:**Area/task/activity: School dog - Companion/Reading/Therapy Dog in School****Location of activity: Walmsley CE Primary School**

School name: Address & Contact details:	Walmsley CE Primary School Blackburn Road Egerton Bolton BL7 9SA	Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment:	Debra Carr
		Signature(s):	
Head teacher (Name):	Debra Carr	Date of Assessment:	November 2021
Signature:		Planned Review Date:	Annually
How communicated to staff:	via email	Date communicated to staff:	

PART B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES:

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Policy and procedures	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The <u>head teacher</u> ensures that all staff, and where appropriate, pupils and their parents, are aware of and adhere to the following school policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Health and Safety Policy</u> ○ <u>Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</u> ○ <u>First Aid Policy</u> ○ <u>Animals in School Policy</u> ○ <u>Behavioural Policy</u> ○ <u>Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy</u> ○ <u>Fire Safety Policy</u> ♦ The <u>Head teacher</u> 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 <u>Head teacher</u> calls the LA and follows local procedures to register the dog. ♦ The <u>SBM</u> ensures that the school's insurance covers using the dog for the specific planned activities, for example, having a therapy dog, listening to children read. ♦ The <u>Head teacher</u> ensures that the dog is cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. ♦ The PAT charity insures the dog under their Terms and Conditions
General information	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	All below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Follow guidance issued by the RSPCA on the 'Therapy Dog Friendly Schools' to ensure compliance with the Therapy Dog Welfare Act and best practice. https://education.rspca.org.uk/education/teachers/animalfriendlyschools

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Insurance	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, School Dog	Injuries/illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dog to be provided with harnesses, leads, collars and identification. ◆ Dog to have an insurance that covers personal injuries to children/staff. ◆ School has public liability insurance that covers school dogs. ◆ Dog is microchipped. ◆ Dog is insured for Vet care.
Poor hygiene	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Infection, illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cuts and abrasions on the exposed skin of hands and arms are to be covered before handling the dog. ◆ Dogs immunisations are kept up to date, Head teacher to monitor this ◆ Pupils and adults must always wash their hands prior to handling the dog and as soon as possible afterwards or after coming into contact with bedding, toys water bowl etc. ◆ Reception & KS1 pupils hand washing is to be supervised to ensure that it is done properly. ◆ Reception & KS1 pupils are to be closely supervised to ensure they do not put their fingers in their mouths before hands have been washed. ◆ The dog will not be allowed to walk unrestricted around classrooms. ◆ Dog house/cage/bedding is cleaned and disinfected regularly. ◆ In the unlikely event the dog sits on chairs/tables etc. They will clean and disinfect them immediately. ◆ The responsible person will arrange to dispose of any uneaten dog food, in the unlikely event that the dog is fed in school, before it begins to decompose or attracts pests such as flies and vermin.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Manual handling	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, School Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils and visitors are requested/instructed not to lift/carry the dog as this could injure themselves or the dog. Nominated members of staff will supervise any interaction with the dog (called 'handlers').
Slips, trips and falls	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, School Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Good standards of housekeeping must be maintained at all times. ◆ The dog is moved around the building on a short lead by staff to reduce the risk of anyone tripping over the dog. ◆ Pupils are supervised by a handler at all times when handling the dog. In the unlikely event of liquid and faeces around school, this will be cleaned up immediately to both reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls and also to reduce the risks from poor hygiene.
Injuries	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, School Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The dog is well trained and is used to coming into close contact with people. ◆ Pupils, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. ◆ Pupils, 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. ◆ Pupils, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog with permission from the handlers and with supervision. ◆ The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people. ◆ The dog is trained to not pull on the lead or jump up at people.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Diseases, parasites and allergies	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Illness, allergic reaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Parents and Carers are asked to identify any pupils known to have allergic reactions to dogs and these pupils will not be able to go near the dog. ◆ Any pupils who are not known to have allergies, but who may appear to develop one, are instructed to avoid all further contact with the dog and parents/carers informed. ◆ A list of children who are not allowed to come into contact with the dog, needs to be kept with the other allergy information. All staff to know who are to have no contact. ◆ Staff who have any allergies to not come into contact with the dog. ◆ Medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside after a reasonable timeframe, the dog and the affected person will be kept apart. ◆ Dog food, in the unlikely event that it needs to be brought into school will be kept safe and secure to prevent unauthorised access and to keep away from pests. ◆ All pupils, staff and visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog. ◆ The <u>Head teacher</u> 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.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
School Dog eating food in school	School Dog	Physical injury/upset stomach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The dog must only eat its own food and treats and must not be fed by pupils without authority from and under the supervision of approved members of staff. ◆ To prevent accidental feeding, the dog will not enter the staff room or the main school dining hall whilst food is being prepared/served or consumed. ◆ All food will be kept out of the dog's reach e.g. in a store cupboard off the floor. ◆ Dog to be kept away from the dining hall during meal times and away from any food preparation.

School Dog Welfare	School Dog	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The dog will be exercised regularly by a nominated person or supervised pupil. ◆ All gates will be kept closed/locked during exercise periods, regular checks of any fencing for breaches must be undertaken to ensure the dog cannot escape. ◆ The dog will be taught to signal when it needs a comfort break or is taken out regularly to allow for comfort needs. ◆ 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. ◆ Pupils leave the dog alone when instructed by their teachers. ◆ 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. ◆ Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in. ◆ The <u>Head teacher</u> 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 pupils 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, e.g. the Head teacher's office. ◆ The <u>Head teacher</u> 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 takes it home.
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List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Before any activity is carried out, the <u>Head teacher</u> 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.
School Dog Welfare	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	School Dog death Pupil upset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Any specific welfare conditions for the breed of dog have been considered prior to making the decision to allow a dog on site. ◆ The dog has access to clean water throughout the day. ◆ Provision is made for the dog's welfare out of school hours e.g. the dog lives with the designated teacher. ◆ The dog has regular veterinary health checks, if it is unwell, it will be removed from the school environment until it is feeling better or treated by a vet. ◆ The dog is given regular breaks away from interacting with pupils. ◆ The dog to have regular quiet times away from the children in the Head/Deputy Head Teacher's office.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
School Dog Welfare	School Dog	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Environment – the dog will have their own draught free bed in a quiet place, secured safely when in a car, daily exercise according to breed, age and health, adequate toileting opportunities throughout the day, a specified separated dog exercise and toileting area, a poop scoop and disinfection chemicals in case of accidents, dogs should be safe from any hazards or poisons inside and outside. ◆ Diet – a complete balanced diet according to age, breed and lifestyle and 24 hour access to water. ◆ Companionship – due to the social nature of the dog they will never be left alone for more than 4 hours in any given day.
Phobias	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils 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. ◆ During busy times, such as breaks, the dog is kept in a safe and secure area away from any commotion.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Disobedience and dangerous behaviour	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The handler is equipped and trained to react to and control any dangerous behaviour. ◆ Pupils are not expected to handle the dog unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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, pupils, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable. ◆ The <u>Head teacher</u> 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 <u>Head teacher</u> removes the dog and a contingency plan is implemented.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Cleanliness	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors School Dog	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regular cleaning of all areas is carried out by Site Maintenance Officer/Cleaner/nominated staff. ◆ Workplace Inspections are undertaken on a regular basis by the Head Teacher/Site Maintenance Officer/Cleaner/nominated staff. ◆ Head teacher/nominated person ensures that the dog is cleaned/groomed on a regular basis prior to coming into school. ◆ The dog is kept in the Head/Deputy Head Teacher's office when not interacting with staff/pupils. ◆ Blankets/bedding and crate 'safe place' are cleaned on a daily/weekly/regular basis, all blankets and bedding are cleaned off site by the designated teacher. ◆ Windows can be opened to provide fresh circulating air. ◆ Air fresheners are available if required.
Fire/Emergency/Evacuation Situation	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors School Dog	Physical Injury/Fatality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The dog is accompanied at all times and will be taken to the Fire Assembly Point by the handler as they evacuate themselves. ◆ Where necessary, the school's Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy is reviewed to ensure it includes provisions for the dog.
Noise	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers School Dog	Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Head teacher to instruct anyone coming into contact with the dog to keep noise levels low to avoid upsetting/startling the dog. ◆ Staff to monitor the behaviour of pupils and dog, including noise levels. ◆ The dog will be trained to tolerate some noise levels e.g. walking through the school playground during break times/lunch time.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Security of Premises	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers School Dog	Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Controlled access, Safeguarding policy available. ◆ Staff to supervise pupils outside the building. ◆ The dog is restrained on a lead at all times. ◆ Children never to be left unsupervised with the dog ◆ Gates are kept locked - permission to access school grounds is sought from the Head Teacher/nominated person. ◆ Handlers will be the only people responsible for the dog. ◆ The dog is kept on a lead when it is not in its housing or in a secure location, e.g. in the Head Teacher's office.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Visiting other Schools/Premises	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, School Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consent is received from the Head Teacher/Senior Leadership Team/other before arranging any visit to another premise. ◆ Nominated members of staff accompany and supervise the dog and pupils at all times. ◆ If the dog needs to be transported, a suitable method is used e.g. strapped in with a safety device attached to seatbelt in the vehicle or is placed in their crate whilst travelling in the vehicle. ◆ The dog is fed/watered and encouraged to take a comfort break prior to travelling. ◆ Confirm date and time of visit prior to the initial visit by the dog, discussions between both parties are recommended. ◆ Site is assessed to ensure suitability of a visit by the dog. ◆ Pupil visit risk assessments to be undertaken/reviewed as necessary; ◆ Parent/Pupil consent forms to be completed. ◆ The Head Teacher/nominated person to reiterate responsibilities for the dog's behaviour on other premises e.g. if another adult is with the dog they need to understand how to handle the dog what to do/and what not to do. ◆ Comply with all premises procedures. ◆ Signage to be displayed indicating "Dog on Premises" while the dog is on site.

NOTE: CLEAPSS have issued a number of guidance leaflets on keeping Companion/Therapy Dogs in school as well as bringing pets, etc, to school that may be useful in developing this risk assessment further as the scope for the dog is reviewed:

- L56 – Housing and Keeping Animals;

This risk assessment will apply to a school dog providing the control measures described are in operation and there are no further local significant hazards. If it does not fully apply and further control measures are required then these will be assessed as appropriate or necessary. If it fully applies please sign below.

I certify that the risk assessment above fully applies to a school dog in Walmsley CE Primary School.

Signed:

Name: Debra Carr

Risk Assessor: Debra Carr