



Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy



Dog In School Risk Assessment

Dogs in school risk assessment



Assessment conducted by: Kellie Egleton	Job title: Executive Head Teacher	Covered by this assessment: All staff, pupils and visitors
Date of assessment: May 2025	Review interval: September (annually)	Date of next review: September 2025

Related documents
Health and Safety Policy, Infection Control Policy, Animals in school policy

Risk rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	Major Causes major physical injury, harm or ill-health.	High (H)	High	Medium (M)
	Severe Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	High	Medium	Low (L)
	Minor Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	Medium	Low	Low

Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Health – diseases and parasites	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The dog has a designated handler who is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on school premises, ensuring there is a supply of fresh water available. <input type="checkbox"/> The handler is responsible for permitting people to touch the dog. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog will reside in the head teacher's office and the areas are kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, pupils, staff and visitors. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog is fully inoculated. 	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog will go to the vet annually for a check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases. • Annual inoculations will be booked in and worming will be completed monthly. • On hot days, the handler will ensure there is appropriate provision in place to keep the dog cool, and ensure the dog avoids too much activity during the hottest part of the day. 	MT	M

Hygiene	H	<input type="checkbox"/> The dog will be suitably toilet trained. <input type="checkbox"/> The designated area for the dog to defecate will be clearly marked and not accessible to pupils. All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a waste bag, and disposed of into a separate waste bin. <input type="checkbox"/> The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces. <input type="checkbox"/> Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags, and into the clinical waste bin. <input type="checkbox"/> The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. <input type="checkbox"/> Any pupils/staff/visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing provision is provided throughout the school. <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone touching the dog, who has an exposed wound, must have the wound suitably covered.	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the dog is ill with an infection or disease, it will not return to the school until it has recovered. • Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog. 	MT	L
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Bites and scratches	H	<input type="checkbox"/> The dog has received appropriate training to ensure that the dog is trained well, and is used to coming into close contact with people. Pupils/staff/visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. <input type="checkbox"/> Pupils/staff/visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dog. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils/staff/visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated time-slots. The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people. 	MT	M
Minor injuries related to dog housing and equipment	M	<input type="checkbox"/> All dog bedding/housing is regularly checked for defects. <input type="checkbox"/> All dog equipment is stored in the head teacher's office when not in use. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips. <input type="checkbox"/> Any spillages from the dog's bowl are wiped up immediately.	Y	<input type="checkbox"/> All dog bedding is washed (not using school machine) regularly and replaced when required	MT	L
Allergies	H	<input type="checkbox"/> Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals will have restricted access to the dog if requested. <input type="checkbox"/> All pupils and staff are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog. <input type="checkbox"/> All pupils/staff/visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog.	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter outlining the low risk of an allergy due to the breed of the dog will be circulated to all parents. Parents who have a child who is allergic to dogs will have the option to opt their child out of interactions with the dog. 	MT	M

Phobias	M	<input type="checkbox"/> Pupils and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dog if requested. <input type="checkbox"/> The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. Control action: there is a sign displayed on the front door stating the school has a dog so people are aware before entering the building.	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During busy times, the dog will be kept in a safe and secure area away from the commotion. If the dog is unsettled, the dog will be kept in a safe and secure area away from the commotion. 	MT	L
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