

# SILSDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## DOGS IN SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT



<b>Assessment conducted by:</b> Sally-Anne Boyes	<b>Job title:</b> School Business Leader	<b>Covered by this assessment:</b> Dogs brought in to school by staff to work with children
<b>Date of assessment:</b> June 2023	<b>Review interval:</b> Yearly	<b>Date of next review:</b> June 2024

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

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Policy and procedures	H	<p>The headteacher ensures that all staff, and where appropriate, pupils and their parents, are aware of and adhere to the following school policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>- First Aid Policy</li> <li>- Behaviour Policy</li> <li>- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy - Fire Safety Policy</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>The School's Business Leader ensures that the school's insurance covers using the dog for the specific planned activities.</p> <p>The headteacher ensures that the dog is cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.</p>	Y	Headteacher	01.7.23	M

Dog's welfare	H	<p>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 – SBL and main office.  Training given to all pupils and rules/expectations set on behaviour and noise around the dog.  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 SBL 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.</p>	Y	Headteacher	01.07.23	M
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Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<p>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.</p> <p>The dog is given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area, e.g. the office areas and the grassland at the top of the carpark.  The SBL 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.  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.</p>				

		Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dog.				
Site Security	H	At least two adults are appointed to be responsible for the dog. 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 the secure office areas. The headteacher ensures that all appropriate doors are closed when the dog is participating in an activity, e.g. in a school hall. The site manager ensures that the premises is secure, e.g. fences are not broken.	Yes	Headteacher/ Site Manager	01.07.23	M
Evacuation procedures	H	The person handling the dog during specified activities is responsible for the dog's safety during a lockdown or evacuation. Where the handler is a pupil, e.g. if the dog is participating in a mentoring exercise, another appointed member of staff is responsible for the dog's safety.	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	M
Disobedience and dangerous behaviour	H	The handler is equipped and trained to react to and control any dangerous behaviour. Dogs are on a lead when walking around school. Dogs are only removed for exercise and behaviour assessed before the lead is removed. When pupils walk the dog, 2 leads are used and an adult always holds the other.	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	L

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		If the person handling the dog for a specific activity is a pupil, e.g. in a school performance, they are given training to handle the dog, and the pupil and dog are given an opportunity to bond.  Pupils are not expected to handle the dog unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Their parents have provided permission.</li> <li>- They feel safe and confident in doing so.</li> <li>- They have received training to handle the dog.</li> </ul>				

		<p>The dog's obedience is ensured as far as reasonably possible; however, staff, pupils, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. For example, if the dog is participating in a school performance, but is nervous about going onto the stage, the headteacher uses a toy dog instead.</p>				
Parent notification/permission	H	<p>The headteacher informs parents that the dog will be present on the school's premises.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The headteacher has given parents a chance to opt out their child for them to be in proximity with, or to handle, the dog.</p> <p>Parents are informed if they are likely to come into contact with the dog, e.g. at a school performance.</p>	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	L
Dog's health	H	<p>The dog's designated handler is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on the school premises.</p> <p>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, pupils, staff and visitors.</p>	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	M

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<p>The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises.</p> <p>The dog is fully inoculated.</p>				

		<p>The dog goes to the vet for a regular check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases.</p> <p>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.</p>				
Hygiene	H	<p>The dog is suitably toilet trained.</p> <p>The designated area for the dog to defecate is situated away from pupils and staff.</p> <p>All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a clinical waste bag, and disposed of into a clinical waste bin.</p> <p>The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces.</p> <p>Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags and placed into a clinical waste bin.</p> <p>The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. Any pupils, staff and visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing facilities are provided throughout the school.</p> <p>Anyone with an exposed wound who touches the dog has the wound suitably covered.</p> <p>If the dog is ill with an infection or a disease, it does not return to the school until it has recovered.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No (Clinical Waste Bin)</p>	Headteacher Site Manager	01.07.23	L
Injuries	H	<p>The dog is well trained and is used to coming into close contact with people.</p> <p>Pupils, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler.</p> <p>Pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dog.</p> <p>The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school when pupils are on the premises. Dog will only roam freely on the grassland at the top of the carpark or school playing field when no children are around.</p>	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	M

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		<p>Pupils, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated timeslots.</p> <p>The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people.</p> <p>The dog is trained to not pull on the lead or jump up at people.</p>				
Dog's housing and equipment	H	<p>The headteacher ensures that the dog has housing that meets its physical and psychological needs.</p> <p>The headteacher ensures that the dog is able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lie fully stretched out.</li> <li>- Turn around without touching either the walls or the ceiling.</li> <li>- Stand in its natural posture.</li> <li>- Move in its natural manner.</li> <li>- Rest comfortably.</li> </ul> <p>All dog's bedding/housing is checked for defects on a weekly basis by the SBL.</p> <p>All dog equipment is stored in the Business Manager's office when not in use.</p> <p>The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips.</p> <p>Any spillages from the dog's bowls are wiped up immediately.</p>	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	L

Allergies	H	<p>Parents advised of the dog in school. Parents asked to advise school if pupil is allergic to dogs.</p> <p>Dog will not go into classrooms with pupils who have dog allergies</p> <p>Dog in school is of low allergy breed and does not shed fur/dander</p> <p>Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dog.</p> <p>All pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser to be used after touching the dog</p>	Yes	Headteacher	01.07.23	M



