

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Risk Assessment



Activity: Educational Assistance Dog - Winnie	Date: 1 st September 2020
Assessment undertaken by: R McKenzie/ M McDonnell / A Bartle	Review date: 1 st November 2020
While Winnie is still young, she will develop rapidly. During this period and while she is still in training, this risk assessment will be reviewed and updated AT LEAST every 6 weeks.	

Hazards	Who is at risk?	Risk rating	Control measures
Canine Behaviour			
Being knocked over.	All, but more likely for smaller children	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Day 1 teach children about responsible animal handling: The dog will always be monitored by Miss Bartle The dog will never be allowed to roam freely, unattended on school premises. Children, of any age, are not to be left unattended with the dog. During the school day (8.45-3.30pm) Inside, the dog will always wear a harness so that it can be held. The adult will always have a lead should the dog need to be restrained. Education of the children in understanding the mood, reactions and body-language of the dog will be essential. Children will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions. In class lessons and whole school assemblies will be used to help with this. Children will be taught how to remove themselves from an interaction with the dog that they are uncomfortable with. The dog will begin formal puppy training before entering the school environment and this will be ongoing for the first year of its life. The dog will undergo conditioning and socialisation within the school environment and will work with small groups of more confident children before being introduced to the wider school community. Weekly training for dog and experiences will reduce the risk of scratching and biting. Staff will have been introduced to the dog and training will be carried out so that they are clear on the expectations placed on adults in contact with the school dog. As part of regular vet check-ups, the dog will have its claws clipped so that they are short. If mouthing and other behaviours are frequent and persistent over a long period of time, the role of the dog within school would be reconsidered. The dog will be seen by a behaviourist if required.
Being scratched		Medium	
Being bitten		Low	
Dog being resistant to instructions	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog must not be actively working for any more than three hours per day. This is vital as the dog will become tired without plenty of rest. The dog will have a timetabled routine that must be stuck to, this will then allow for plenty of rest to avoid tiredness. If the dog were to display any tired, stressed or irritable behaviours, it would immediately be given time in its crate to rest.
Dog displaying unfriendly behaviours	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All adults, and where possible, children, should be educated in recognising tired/stressed behaviours and need to understand the importance of respecting these feelings. If unfriendly or stressed behaviours are frequent and persistent over a long period of time, the role of the dog within school would be reconsidered.

Dog escaping crate/ lead	All + Dog		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the dog is to be left in the crate, a red card will be displayed to show it is not to be disturbed. The dog's crate will be padlocked when necessary and Miss Bartle will carry the key/know the code at all times. If the dog can be disturbed, a green card will be displayed. The dog will not leave the classroom unless its harness and lead are secure. All four bolts on the crate, must be put across before the dog is left alone. Children are educated as to the importance of not allowing the dog off its lead or out of its crate without adult permission.
Emotional Stress / Fear of dogs			
Dog being confused by negative reaction	All (dog may react unpredictably) All -		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to school community No child or adult will be forced to interact with the dog. During education sessions about the dog, fears will be acknowledged and addressed. Children and adults who are nervous, will be given the option to meet the dog in a smaller, calmer setting. Children and adults who are nervous will be offered separate sessions on training and interacting with dogs should they wish. The dog will always wear a harness and short lead when interacting with nervous individuals.
Hygiene control			
Contact with germs from handling/ petting dog	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and pupils are instructed to wash their hands before and after contact. Water and soap for hand washing are available throughout school. If handwashing is not immediately available then hand sanitizer may be used. This is NOT an appropriate substitute for handwashing. Hand-sanitiser to be kept with the 'dog kit' and children wash their hands after interacting with the dog. The dog will not be allowed near the school kitchen at all, or in the school dining hall at meal times. The dog will also be kept away from children's packed lunches and KS1 snacks. All vaccinations will be kept up to date in accordance veterinary recommendation and a record will be kept of this.
Flea bites	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flea treatment will be carried out every six weeks. Regular changing of bedding in the puppy crate, bedding kept in crate, all staff alert to flea bites
Allergic reactions	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check medical records/ talk to staff/ parents to determine whether staff or pupils have any known allergic reactions to animal fur before introduction to school. The breed of dog (labradoodle) has been deliberately selected for its no/low-shed, hypoallergenic fur. Whilst this is not a guarantee that allergies will not be triggered, it will be significantly less likely. Parents and staff will inform the school of any child with a known dog-fur allergy. Children and staff with dog-fur allergies will be discouraged from directly interacting with the dog if parents don't feel it would be safe. All members of the school community will be given the opportunity to interact with the dog, but those with allergies will be able to opt out. The dog will be kept in a well-ventilated room and children and adults with allergies will not need to be in close proximity with the dog.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a child should show signs of an allergic reaction to the dog then appropriate first aid will be given and the parents will be informed.
Contact with faeces	Staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will have an outside 'toileting area' (in an area inaccessible to children) and no dog-mess will ever be left. Waste will be cleared immediately by Miss Bartle (or another member of staff) and this will be disposed of in the designated, labelled 'dog bin' by the 'toileting area'. This bin will be emptied, and the area disinfected by Miss Bartle at the end of every school day.
Hazardous substances	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple solution stain and odor remover will be used to clean outside area and cage. Enzyme cleaner with anti-bac as used now. All natural cleaner, anti-bac stored away from children
Covid-19	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If access to vets is restricted for any reason, dog will not be in school. If protective measures are in place to reduce transmission i.e not sharing resources, extreme distancing, dog will not work with children.
Practical Considerations			
Fire access	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area outside Chestnut class is dog exercise area and fire route. If toileting - on lead, In summer if shade is needed, dog in crate which does not impede access to fire door. Puppy gate may be used to limit risk of interaction while toileting. This is not affixed to fence so can easily be moved to one side if needed for Y5 Poplar evacuation
Animal Welfare			
Not meeting legal duty to provide for welfare needs?	Owner & dog		<p>All domestic animals have the legal right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - live in a suitable environment. The dog will live as part of Miss Bartle's family in her home. All appropriate living, food, exercise and comfort needs will be met as with any family dog. -eat a suitable diet. Dog will have conventional dry food diet - exhibit normal behaviour patterns. The dog will only be in school during school day, term time. Suitable enrichment activities will be provided. If her nature is not suited to school then she will be cared for at home. - be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. Appropriate vet checks, not allowing children to pick up dog, not placing her in situations which may cause injury.
Financial Responsibilities			
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	Owner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day to day care, medical bills and insurance become unaffordable. The dog is ultimately the financial responsibility of Miss Bartle. Training classes, pet insurance, vet bills etc. will all be paid by Miss Bartle. The school will ensure that the dog is covered by their insurance, however Miss Bartle and the dog will also need separate public liability insurance.
Claim made against the school relating to the dog.	Owner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School not adequately covered financially. The school will ensure that the dog is covered by their insurance, however Miss Bartle and the dog will also need separate public liability insurance. Insurance will cover any claim and a copy of the certificate will be kept in school. Insurance will be renewed annually.

