

St Peter's Catholic Primary School Risk Assessment
School Dog

Activity: School Dog - Winnie			
Assessment undertaken by: A McWilliams/R McKenzie/M McDonnell	Start date: Sep 2020	Last Edit: Sept 2022	Review Date: Sept 2023
Signed (lead teacher/handler): A McWilliams		Signed (EVC): M McDonnell	
This Risk Assessment is to be reviewed formally each academic year, but edits may be made termly. Winnie is still in training and her role in the school is gradually changing - this Risk Assessment will be updated accordingly.			

Hazards	Who is at risk?	Risk Rating (RAG)	Control Measures	Review/Edit
Canine Behaviour				
Being knocked over.	All, but more likely for smaller children.	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are taught about responsible animal handling. This was first begun at Winnie's introduction to the school and will be revisited yearly. The dog will be monitored by Mrs McWilliams when closely interacting with children – particular care to be taken with children who are less familiar with Winnie and her behaviours. Mrs Dunne, Mrs Bartle, Mrs Woolford and Mrs Hall have all built a relationship with Winnie that means she can be left monitored by them for short periods. This takes place in Chestnut or Sycamore classrooms with UKS2 aged children. Mrs McWilliams, Mrs Bartle, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Woolford and Mrs Hall are familiar with commands that Winnie responds to, as well as appropriate restraint that can be used (if necessary). Mrs Bartle is familiar with Winnie and will always monitor her closely when participating in Winnie Reading. Winnie will never be allowed to roam freely, within the school building, unattended. Children, of any age, will never be left unattended with the dog. During the school day (8.45-3.30pm) Winnie will always wear a harness so she can be held/restrained if necessary. When moving about the school building, or on the playground, Winnie will be on the lead. She has been trained to walk to 'heel'. 	17.05.21 A Bartle
Being scratched.		Green		04.09.21 A Bartle
Being bitten.		Yellow		01.09.22 A McWilliams

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At break and lunchtimes, Winnie is to be off-lead on the field, only. If children are with Winnie, on the field, she is to be on the lead unless Winnie Wellbeing Walkers are in attendance (children who are familiar with Winnie and have been taught about behaviour around the dog).• In Chestnut, Sycamore and other visiting classrooms, Winnie is off-lead but must still wear a harness at all times.• Education of the children in understanding the mood, reactions and body-language of the dog is essential. Children will continue to be taught about the dog's perception of their behaviour. In class lessons, and whole-school assemblies will be used to help with this.• Children are taught how to remove themselves from an interaction with the dog that they are uncomfortable with. Older children are taught commands that Winnie will respond to.• Winnie has had formal puppy training, over the first two years of her life, and this will continue informally until she is 4 years of age. Winnie is continually in training and Mrs McWilliams is responsible for adapting this training wherever necessary/.• Winnie has been socialised and conditioned within the school environment from 9 weeks of age. She currently works regularly and freely with UKS2 aged children in class-sized groups (30-32). She visits classrooms of younger children (30-32) for shorter periods of time. She is able to interact with small groups (max. 10) of younger children for prolonged periods.• Winnie's day-to-day informal training is ongoing, helping with the risk of mouthing and jumping.• Any staff who spend time with Winnie are clear on the expectations of her behaviour, and that of adults who are in contact with her.• As part of regular vet/grooming check-ups, Winnie has her claws clipped so that they are short and less likely to scratch.• Winnie's training is currently focused on not mouthing and jumping (at familiar adults) when over-excited. If she displays this behaviour she is restrained, put on a lead or in her crate. If this behaviour becomes frequent or persistent her role would be reconsidered.• Winnie will be seen by a behaviourist if required. | |
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Dog being resistant to instructions.	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winnie will never spend more than three continual hours per day in close interaction 'working' with children. During morning lessons, Winnie is given plenty of rest and has access to her crate at all times. To avoid 'boredom behaviours' being demonstrated, Winnie is exercised before school, during a breaktime and at lunchtime. Winnie has a timetabled routine. This is a guideline for the maximum amount of time Winnie can spend 'working'. This is a guideline to ensure that Winnie is not over 'worked'. If Winnie displays any tired, over-excited, stressed or irritable behaviours, she must be given time to rest in her crate. All adults, and Year 6 children are educated in recognising tired/over-excited behaviours and understand how to respect 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. 	17.05.21 A Bartle	
Dog displaying unfriendly behaviour.				04.09.21 A Bartle	01.09.22 A McWilliams
Dog escaping harness/lead/crate /gated classroom.	All (including dog)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Winnie's crate is closed/locked she should not be disturbed. When off-lead in Chestnut or Sycamore classrooms, a gate will be across the classroom door. An adult will always check that the gate is secure after it has been used by children/a child. Winnie will not leave the classroom unless her harness and lead are secure. Winnie will only be let off the lead outside once Mrs McWilliams has checked that the area is secure and there are no children in the area (unless deliberate). If Winnie is to be left alone (short periods only) she must either be shut in the classroom, or with in her crate. Children are educated as to the importance of not allowing Winnie off of her lead/out of the crate/out of the classroom without adult permission. 	17.05.21 A Bartle	
				04.09.21 A Bartle	01.09.22 A McWilliams
Emotional Stress/Fear of Dogs					
Dog being confused by any negative reaction.	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child or adult will be forced to interact with Winnie. During education sessions, fears will be acknowledged and addressed. Children and adults who are nervous, will be given the option to meet Winnie in a smaller, calmer setting. 	17.05.21 A Bartle	04.09.21 A Bartle

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adults who are nervous will be offered separate sessions on training and interacting with dogs if they wish. Winnie will always wear a harness and short lead when interacting with nervous individuals. 	01.09.22 A McWilliams
Hygiene Control				
Contact with germs from handling/petting dog.	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults and children are instructed to wash their hands before and after contact. Water and soap for handwashing are available throughout the school. If handwashing is not immediately available then hand sanitiser may be used. Hand sanitiser is to be kept in the 'dog kit' when Winnie is visiting other classes. This is not an appropriate substitute for handwashing. Winnie will not be allowed near the school kitchen at all, or in the dining hall at mealtimes. If Year 6 children are eating in their classroom, Winnie must be in her crate. Winnie will also be kept away from children's packed lunches and KS1 snacks. Winnie's vaccinations are kept up to date in accordance with veterinary recommendation (yearly boosters) and a record will be kept of this. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle 01.09.22 A McWilliams
Flea bites/ticks/worms and other parasites.	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flea and worming treatment will be carried out every month. Additional worming medication is administered every 6 months. Winnie is to wear a tick collar (outside of school) in the summer months. She is checked regularly for any she may pick up, and any found would be immediately removed and disposed of. Regular changing/washing of bedding is in place. All staff would be alerted to flea bites. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle 01.09.22 A McWilliams
Allergic reactions	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical records are checked, staff/parents have been consulted to determine any known allergies to animal fur/saliva before Winnie's introduction to school. Winnie is a Labradoodle with hypo-allergenic, low/no-shed fur. She was deliberately selected for these attributes. Whilst this is not a guarantee that allergies won't be triggered, it will be significantly less likely. Parents and staff will inform the school of any child with a known dog-fur allergy. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle 01.09.22 A McWilliams

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and staff with dog-fur allergies will be discouraged from directly interacting with Winnie, if the parents deem it to be unsafe. All members of the school community will be given the opportunity to interact with Winnie, but those with allergies will be able to opt out. Children and staff with dog-saliva allergies will inform Mrs McWilliams before any interaction with Winnie so that she can prevent licking. Winnie 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. If a child should show any signs of an allergic reaction to the dog then appropriate first aid will be given, and parents would be informed. 	
Faeces	Staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winnie will have an outside 'toileting' routine to prevent any accidents in the school building. No dog-mess will ever be left. Waste is cleared immediately by Mrs McWilliams (or the supervising member of staff) and this will be disposed of in the designated, 'waste bin' in Winnie's outdoor area. This bin is emptied by Mrs McWilliams or Mr Jacek at the end of every working week. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle 01.09.22 A McWilliams
Practical Considerations				
Fire access	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area outside of Chestnut Class is Winnie's 'outdoor area' and fire route. This is never blocked off. Winnie is attached to a long-line lead when in the 'outdoor area'. In summer, puppy gate may be used, but would not be affixed to fence so could be easily moved in case of an evacuation. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle 01.09.22 A McWilliams
Fire evacuation	All		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winnie has a karabiner attached to her lead at all times so in case of a fire evacuation, she can easily be clipped on to the playground fence – preventing her from being a distraction. 	17.05.21 A Bartle 04.09.21 A Bartle

				01.09.22 A McWilliams
Animal Welfare				
Not meeting legal duty to provide for welfare needs.	Owner and dog		<p>All domestic animals have the legal right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in a suitable environment. Winnie lives as part of Mrs McWilliams'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. Winnie has a conventional dry-food diet. • Exhibit normal behaviour patterns. Winnie will only be in school during term time. Suitable enrichment activities are provided. If Winnie's nature changes and she is not suited to in 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 Winnie, not placing her in situations which may cause injury and being watchful for choking hazards or poisoning. 	<p>17.05.21 A Bartle</p> <p>04.09.21 A Bartle</p> <p>01.09.22 A McWilliams</p>
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. Winnie is ultimately the financial responsibility of Mrs McWilliams. Training classes, pet insurance, vet bills etc. will all be paid for by Mrs McWilliams. • The school will ensure that the dog is covered by their insurance, however Mrs McWilliams and Winnie also have chosen to secure separate public liability cover. 	<p>17.05.21 A Bartle</p> <p>04.09.21 A Bartle</p> <p>01.09.22 A McWilliams</p>
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 Mrs McWilliams and Winnie also have chosen to secure separate public liability cover. • Insurance will cover any claim and be renewed annually. 	<p>17.05.21 A Bartle</p> <p>04.09.21 A Bartle</p> <p>01.09.22 A McWilliams</p>