

RISK ASSESSMENT – SCHOOL DOG

Workplace	Hamsey Community Primary School	Likelihood (L)	X	Severity (S)
Department	Education	Almost Impossible	1	Insignificant (minor injury, no time off)
Risk Assessor	Matt Dean	Unlikely	2	Minor (injury and up to 7 days off)
Room/Area	Whole school	Possible	3	Moderate (injury causing more than 7 days off)
Activity/Task	School Dog	Likely	4	Major (death or serious injury)
Date	February 2023	Almost Certain	5	Catastrophic (multiple deaths)
Benefit of activity	Nurture, intervention, wellbeing, therapy, reading, attendance.	Low = 1-8	Medium = 9-14	High = 15-25

	What are the significant, foreseeable, hazards? (The dangers that can cause harm)	Who is at Risk?	Current control measures (What is already in place/done)	Risk Rating			What additional control measures can be put in place to reduce the risk further?	Revised Risk Rating		
				L	S	R		L	S	R
1.	Unsuitable animals being brought into/kept at school		The dog has been in the care of Matt Dean since November 2021. She has attended training classes and has a nature specifically chosen for its calm and gentle nature in comparison to others viewed.	2	2	4	Pupils are encouraged not to bring animals found in the wild (alive or dead/injured) into school. If school dog attempts to do this, dispose of in humane and ethical manner.	1	1	1
2.	Neglect of animals and their welfare	Pupils Staff Volunteers Visitors	Matt Dean owns the dog and she is in the care of family when she is not in school. She lives in Matt Dean's house. Dog is walked twice daily and has constant access to fresh water. The RSPCA's 'Animal Friendly Schools' guidance is followed to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and best practice Do not allow dog to wander unsupervised around classrooms – she is based in the office. The dog will be introduced in a staggered method to ensure children and dog are not anxious and can build up trust. If dog shows signs of anxiety (whining, barking, tail between legs, ears flat, cowering etc.) she will be removed from the situation that is making her nervous. During school holidays, the dog continues to live with Matt Dean as a pet.	2	3	6	School policy written detailing rationale, advice, requirements and procedures for having the dog in school. Animals must be properly housed – lives with Matt Dean and has own bed/crate and water bowl in the office. Visits to classrooms/busy places kept short (20mins max.) and with owner or trained staff member.	1	3	3

3.	Animal waste/food; poor hygiene	Hygiene procedures are in place and pupils supervised to ensure they happen e.g. after touching the dog, pupils wash their hands with soap and warm water under adult supervision Dog's bedding is washed regularly. Safe storage of dog food to prevent unauthorised access and vermin – food and treats to be in the office securely stored. Dog is not allowed to lick pupil's faces. The dog will be taken for toilet breaks in an area not used by children and properly cleaned up after. When walking the dog, children and adults will change into suitable shoes and hands should be washed after the footwear is changed	2	2	4	After any accidental contact with faeces or urine it is washed off immediately Dog is fully house trained but any accidents will be immediately cleaned up with proper cleaning products (COSHH compliant).	1	2	2
4.	Lack of awareness of pupils/staff with allergies	All dog food is nut and allergen free. Any children with allergies do not come into close contact with dog. Procedure in place to ensure that affected pupils/staff are not exposed to known allergens e.g. the protein in a pet's dander, saliva or urine.	2	4	8	Parents/carers inform school of any known dog allergies. Dog is groomed regularly with a wash and trim. Dog's fur is brushed regularly to keep maintained.	2	2	4
5.	Sharp claws/teeth	Pupils are instructed on the safe handling of the dog to avoid injury.	2	2	4	Teeth and claws are regularly checked by the vet (twice annually) to ensure they are safe.	2	1	2

Action Plan (when will the above additional control measures be implemented and by whom?)

Action	By Whom?	Deadline	Date Completed
Reminders in assembly and introductions with new children taken place.	Mr Dean	03.03.23	
School policy written and shared with stakeholders.	Mr Dean	03.03.23	

Signature and review

Name of Manager:					
1st review undertaken on:					
2nd review undertaken on:					
3rd review undertaken on:					

RISK ASSESSMENT - SCHOOL DOG WALKING

Workplace	Hamsey Community Primary School	Likelihood (L)	X	Severity (S)
Department	Education	Almost Impossible	1	Insignificant (minor injury, no time off)
Risk Assessor	Matt Dean	Unlikely	2	Minor (injury and up to 7 days off)
Room/Area	School Field only initially	Possible	3	Moderate (injury causing more than 7 days off)
Activity/Task	Walking school dog	Likely	4	Major (death or serious injury)
Date	February 2023	Almost Certain	5	Catastrophic (multiple deaths)
Benefit of activity	Nurture, wellbeing, therapy, attendance.	Low = 1-8	Medium = 9-14	High = 15-25

Routes (to be decided on a day-to-day basis depending on the weather and season)

What are the significant, foreseeable, hazards? (the dangers that can cause harm)	Who is at Risk?	Current control measures (What is already in place/done)	Risk Rating			What additional control measures can be put in place to reduce the risk further?	Revised Risk Rating		
			L	S	R		L	S	R
1. Safety and handling of the dog		Two leads will be used so an adult always has overall control of the dog. Staff member will always have overall control of the dog. Staff member will be familiar to the dog. If dog unwell, she will not be in school. Dog well socialised so used to interacting with other dogs on walks. Dog will be put onto the lead if other dogs are on a lead. Recall of the dog is good.	2	2	4	Dog is trained to walk appropriately on and off the lead. Dog will be checked over after each walk to ensure no injuries sustained. Dog trained to leave cyclists/other walkers alone The dog will only be let off the lead if there are no livestock in the vicinity. Route is decided upon what time of year it is (e.g. if the field is too muddy, or there are livestock in some of the fields).	1	2	2
2. Cleaning up after the dog	Pupils Staff	No child will ever clean up dog mess. Staff member present will do this.	1	1	2				
3. Safety of the children		Consent forms for children will be obtained. The route will be familiar one to the adults walking, or they will use the school field. Ratio of adult to child will be appropriate for age group of children. The adult to child ratio will be determined by the group of children walking – sometimes another staff member will accompany walks as an extra adult but sometimes this will just be Matt Dean. The children will all change footwear and have appropriate clothing. In very heavy rain or strong winds, the children will not accompany the dog.	2	2	4	All children and staff to wear high-vis vests. Staff member to take mobile phone so they can be communicated with at any time.	1	2	2

Action	By Whom?	Deadline	Date Completed
School familiarisation for Minnie during the school day.	Matt Dean	February 2023	

Signature and review

Name of Manager:		Signature of Manager:		Date:	
1 st review undertaken on:		Signature of Manager:		Date:	
2 nd review undertaken on:		Signature of Manager:		Date:	
3 rd review undertaken on:		Signature of Manager:		Date:	