

- Activity Risk Assessment
- SSOW / Method Statement

Assessment Details

- Org UnitHealth & Safety
- Reference6368
- Is This ConfidentialNo
- Publish To PortalYes
- Risk Assessment CategoryGeneral
- Project Risk Assessment Reference
- Assessment TitleSchool Dog
- Location*Add School here*
- Assessor Reference
- Assessment Team Members*add names here of all persons involved with reviewing assessment and making specific to the school*
- Assessment Date15/12/2023
- Activity DescriptionPresence of an appropriately trained dog in the school as part of the school community for therapeutic purposes and aid to learning, behaviour & attainment.
- Number Of People Exposed
- People Exposed
 - Teaching staff
 - Non Teaching staff
 - Pupils
 - Visitors
 - Contractors

Hazards And Control Measures

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Hazard Category	Hazard Description	Persons At Risk	How Is Person At Risk	Control Measures Currently In Place	Current Risk Factor	Additional Control Measures	Residual Risk Factor
Animals	The dog could become excited when working with children	Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	They may be nipped, scratched, knocked over by the dog. Potential for injuries as a result of falls or contracting diseases from bites or scratches.	SBC Policy	9 Medium	The dog will have had recognised training as per SBC Dogs in School Policy and will have been assessed and signed off by a qualified dog behaviouralist before being allowed to work in the school. Training will include not jumping up, biting or mouthing people. Pupils will be taught about the impact of their actions and behaviours around the dog in order to minimise occasions when the dog becomes too excited. Continual monitoring of the dog as it ages for changes in behaviour and retraining as required to combat risk of scratching, mouthing, biting and getting overly excited. As per SBC policy the dog will be familiarised with the school environment and loud school sounds (period bell/ fire alarm etc.)with no pupils present in the building, followed by gradual introduction to operational school. The dog will be on its lead at all times when moving around the school or working in the school.	3 Low
Allergies	Children or adults may be allergic to the dog/dog hair	Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	They may have an allergic reaction making them feel unwell.	SBC Policy	9 Medium	School dog breed will be chosen that has lower levels of shedding of hair and dander skin/dust. Parents and Staff will be consulted on the proposal to have a school dog or if there is already a dog in school parents, staff, visitors and contractors will be notified of its presence and will be asked to notify school of any known allergies that may	3 Low

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						be relevant (dog specific allergy may not have manifested). Specific risk assessment will be carried out for the individual(s) at risk. \Any person with allergies will not have direct contact with the dog. The children will be made to wash their hands after any contact with the dog. Monitoring for any contact allergies from naturally excreted oils, saliva etc manifesting in persons as a result of working with the dog. Action take as appropriate. Dog excluded from communal areas and rooms used by persons with allergies. Everybody is instructed and reminded of the need for good hygiene practices during and after interaction with the dog. Suitable cleanup protocols following accidents/ dog being in restricted spaces.	
Biological	People contract disease directly from the dog, scratches, nips, bites or from its faeces.	Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	Contracting canine borne diseases leading to illness	SBC Policy	9 Medium	The dog's owner is responsible for ensuring the dog is fully vaccinated against common canine diseases and any additional vaccinations or treatments recommended by a qualified vet and receives regular veterinary check ups. The dog's owner will ensure that vaccinations and treatments (e.g. fleas, ticks, and worms) are kept up to date. vaccinations are kept up to date and this will be monitored by the Head teacher. A specific toileting location will identified and agreed with relevant officers and appropriately segregated from access for	3 Low

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						pupils and others as per SBC policy. Procedures for toileting the dog will be made and those involved instructed in them. Procedures will include adequate supervision, how to safely remove and dispose of faecal matter, removing and disposing of faecal matter immediately and cleansing the area. The dog will be toilet trained before being introduced to working in the school environment. The dog will be trained to signal that it needs to toilet. Suitable antibacterial cleaning products agreed with cleaning services and COSHH assessed by the H&S Team will be available in the school in case of accident. The dog will not be allowed in kitchens, staff rooms, or dining halls.	
Animals	Loud noises, new situations, new people, environment changes, behavioural changes in people, changes in the dog and its temperament as it ages.	The Dog Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	The dog may become distressed/ unhappy/ upset/ frightened leading to changes in its behaviour and injury to itself or others	SBC Policy	12 High	Appropriate safe places will be identified for the dogs and appropriately provisioned in agreement with property management and health and safety team. The dog will be able to go to its safe places when it is feeling stressed or worried, all persons in school will be instructed in the signs for this need. The dog will always be under the direct supervision of an adults who will take measures to support the dog and move it to one of its safe places if it becomes stressed or worried. The dog will kept out of circulation spaces during busy times (e.g. break/ lunch when pupils are leaving/returning) All pupils and staff	6 Medium

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						will be instructed in how to behave around the dog including no feeding it, no raised voices, no crowding it, action to take if the dog slips its lead or escapes its safe place. Familiarisation for dog with school environment, period bells and fire alarm before coming into school with the pupils. Gradual introduction to the school with pupils and working with pupils. The dog will be regularly assessed with regards any changes to its temperament as it ages that may affect its placement in the school.	
Animals	The dog gets loose from its lead/cage / poor recall	Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	Some individuals may be scared or alarmed by the dog leading to upset or fear. Injuries sustained whilst trying to retrieve the dog.	SBC Policy	6 Medium	The dog will be trained and assessed for having good recall before being introduced to the school environment. The dog will always wear its lead when outwith its safe areas. If the dog is loose, named staff will be contacted to retrieve it. Children will be taught not to tease/chase the dog but to let an adult know the dog is loose.	4 Medium
Animals	Injuries to the dog leading to temporary change in temperament	The Dog Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	The dog may have a temporary change in temperament or sudden reaction if it has an injury which is touched / knocked by others.	SBC Policy	12 High	An assessment will be made by the dog's owner on whether it can be in the school environment or not. Close monitoring for any signs of distress in the dog. All staff and pupils should be made aware of the potential for change in behaviour and normal ways of being with the dog may not be suitable / how to interact with the dog during healing time.	6 Medium

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Animals	The Dog	Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	Individuals may have a fear of dogs and may become distressed.	SBC Policy	4 Medium	Wishes of parents/staff/pupils who have a fear of dogs will be respected. If agreed to careful work will be done to reduce fear and allow interaction. Dog will be excluded from areas the scared person will be in until they are comfortable. All visitors and contractors will be made aware of the presence of the school dog and if they have a fear of dogs, the dog will be kept in other areas when they are in the building.	2 Low
Animals	Dog not wanting to be in school	The Dog Teaching staff, non teaching staff, pupils, visitors, contractors	The dog may have a temporary change in temperament or sudden reaction if it doesn't want to be in school.	SBC Policy	9 Medium	If the dog indicates it doesn't want to go to school it will be left at its alternate day place. If the dog indicates it doesn't want to work with pupils or doesn't want to be in school during the day it will be allowed to go to its safe place and if necessary collected to be taken home or other off site safe place.	1 Low
Animals	Adverse impact on the development of the dog in its early development stages due to the school environment and interaction with pupils.	The Dog	Exposure to a school environment might interfere with a puppy's natural sleeping patterns, which could have a detrimental impact on their behaviour and wellbeing	SBC Policy	9 Medium	The dog shouldn't be exposed to the school environment at a very young age, while they are becoming used to the sights, sounds, smells and interactions within their home environment and local community. When the owner and dog behaviourist is confident that the dog is ready to attend school with pupils in the building, you will need to plan a gradual introduction process. For the first few months the dog should attend school only for short periods and meet only small groups of children in controlled	3 Low

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						situations, and any physical interaction should only involve one child at a time	

Conclusion

- Is This An Acceptable Risk?No
- Assessment Conclusion
- When a decision is made to have a dog in school, before any other action is taken, a specific assessment should be made using this assessment (contact H&S Team for a copy) as a guide with actions assigned to specific persons to put in place the identified "Additional Control Measures" and any others required before the dog is allowed in school.
- Once the controls are in place then it would be considered that suitable controls are all in place and the risk is acceptable.
- If other controls are identified not on this assessment, they should be notified to the Health and Safety Team for consideration and possible inclusion on this template for the benefit of other schools

Attachments

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File / Link Description File Size Date Record Created

Record Approval

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Stage	Date	By	Assigned	Submission Due Date	Approver	Approved?	Comments
Auto Assigned	09/01/2024	Stuart Ford	healthandsafety	30/01/2024		No	
Assigned	11/01/2024	Simon Astin	Stuart Ford	30/01/2024		No	
In Progress	12/01/2024	Stuart Ford				No	

Stage	Date	By	Assigned	Submission Due Date	Approver	Approved?	Comments
Submitted	12/01/2024	Stuart Ford			Stuart Ford	No	This record was submitted and approved at the same time.
Approved (Current)	12/01/2024	Stuart Ford			Stuart Ford	Yes	

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