



**AREA: Interaction with pupils and Staff**

**REASON: To ensure the school dog always interacts appropriately.**

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the puppy is invited to write to inform Mrs Pryke of their wishes. The risk assessment will be reviewed annually, and the school senior leadership team will evaluate the impact of a school dog on a regular basis.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have show that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply y making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

**The dog will: -**

- Be regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Be well enough to be in school.
- Receive relevant innocultions.
- Be wormed regularly every six months.
- Have trimmed claws to reduce risk of scratches.
- Be exercised before being allowed to work with children.

The dog owner and handler has the responsibility to ensure that: -

- Dogs are physically fit before visiting the school environment.
- Dogs are kept on a lead throughout the visit / work.
- They always remain with the dog.
- The dog is discouraged from jumping, scratching and licking.
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard, i.e. not wet, muddy etc.
- Natural relief from dogs is taken into account prior to working with the pupils

**There will be a number of identified handlers of the dog who will work with Mrs Pryke, the dog and pupils. They are:-**

Mrs Pryke, Mrs Martin, Mrs Liney, Mr Ferrier, Mrs Imhof, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Bailey and Ms Hussain



# SCHOOL DOG RISK ASSESSMENT

Thriftwood

The Thriftwood school dog has been acquired from an accredited and high quality source. The dog's name is Reggie and he is a Wheaten Terrier. Reggie was born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

IDENTIFY THE HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED & HOW?	CURRENT CONTROLS	LEVEL OF RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	ACTIONS TAKEN TO MITIGATE RISK	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DATE COMPLETED
School dog biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if dog bites	The school dog will be trained not to bite through puppy classes.	High whilst a puppy	High whilst a puppy	Staff to regularly monitor the dog's temperament, behaviour and mood. Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way. Dog trained to have no mouth/teeth contact and to respond to the command 'stop' if any mouth contact is made and to withdraw any contact with dog. Dog trained through obedience classes. Reduced contact with pupils during he puppy phase.	Provide appropriate chew toys.	Mrs Pryke	



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Jumping up / scratching	If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up or leave a scratch mark.	Training will involve not jumping up with praise / rewards being given when successful.	High whilst a puppy	High whilst a puppy	Ensure that children and adults to not interact with the school dog without supervision. The school dog will be enclosed in one of the school offices / headteachers office or on a lead by an authorised adult. Children will be taught how and when it is safe to interact with dog and this will be constantly reinforced.. Dog to be trained not to jump up. Dog nails to be regularly clipped. Children to be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them (i.e. stand still, cross arms).			
Running loose	If the school dog were to run loose, he could damage property.	The school dog will be contained at all times in one of the school offices or on a lead.	Low	Low, caged	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective.  If the dog does get loose from his pen the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in its cage.	A stairgate will be placed on the Headteacher's office door.		



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Direct interaction with children / staff	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children / staff could be scratched.	No interaction is allowed without supervision. Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour. Rewards / praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour.	Low	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is effective and appropriate.			
Destruction of materials	If allowed, the school dog may chew / destroy some school materials / resources.	The school dog will be contained at all times. The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed.	Low	Medium whilst still a puppy, otherwise – Low.	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is effective and appropriate.  Provide appropriate play toys for the dog.			



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Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with the school dog	If a child / adult interacts with the school do in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction.	There are agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation.	Medium	Initially at a medium. Reduced to low as pupils learn appropriate ways to interact.	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult / child will have the interaction stopped.			
Use of rewards / treats	Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward / treat. Children / adult must clean their hands after handling treats.	There are toilets where children must wash their hands after stroking DOG. Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation.	Low		Reminders to the children to wash hands after handling treats. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation.			
Worms/Fleas/ Immunisations	If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger than germs can be transferred to humans along with other germs.	The school dog is regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention and all immunisations kept up to date.	Low	Low if treated regularly as planned.	Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet.			



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Faeces	If a child/adult comes into contact with the school dog's faeces, some germs could be transferred.	The school dog will only be walked under supervision. The adult will always have control of DOG lead – not children. No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces this will always be undertaken by an adult.	Medium to high whilst a puppy.	Low to Medium	<p>If a child finds faeces on the school field / playground they will report it to an adult.</p> <p>If the dog defecates on school site, a member of staff will clear it up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. The dog will be trained to toilet in a particular designated area only that does not have pupil access.</p>			
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs, they could become unwell.	If a child has an allergy the school dog must not carry out tasks near the child	Medium	Medium	<p>Parents to inform the school of any known allergies to dogs and to be given the choice to let their child opt out of close contact with the dog. Medical records used to list pupils identified as having an allergy and not to have contact with the dog. Children to wash hands after contact with dog.</p>			



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Children's access to school dog resource	If a child has access to the school dog's treats and eats some, they could become unwell.	All of the dog's resources will be locked away. No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation.	Low	Low				
Contact with food preparation areas	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic.	The school dog will be in his designated area or on a lead at all times around the school. He will never enter the school kitchen areas or the hall at lunch time. He will not enter the staffroom.	Low	Low				
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	If hands are not cleaned, children/adults could become unwell.	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog.	Low	Medium. Remind children and adults to clean their hands.				



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Walking the dog on and off site.	Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk.	No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk. No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when she is on a walk unless permission is given. Children will not accompany on walks off site.	Medium	Low. The dog will not be taken for a walk on either playground during lunchtime or playtime.				
Visits to the general areas e.g. library	If the school dog visits a general area and the children do not follow the correct procedure, he may become excited.	The school dog will, initially, only make visits to the headteachers office. The dog will be on its lead at all times when walking around the school building.  The children in general areas will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop.	Medium	High.	The school dog will not be in classrooms when occupied by a class unless in exceptional circumstances.			





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School events	If the school dog is overwhelmed, he may become aggressive or boisterous.	The school do will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a supervising adult.	Low	Low	Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events. If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend on that day.			
Other dogs (on and off-site)	If the school dog encounters another dog, he may be boisterous.	Only Pets as Therapy dogs will be allowed on the school premises to support the needs of pupils. At no time will the school dog be walked by a child and as a result, if another dog is seen this will be =dealt with by the supervising adult.	Low	Low	Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking.			



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Fire drill / alarm	Dog	Dog being left in the building.	Low	Low	Dog to be involved in practice fire alarm procedure in order to recognise alarm sound. Key staff member will be responsible for removing dog from the building in each area. Dog will be signed in as a staff member, so Fire Marshalls know when dog is on site.			
Lock Down	Dog	Remain in Headteachers office.	Low	Low	Dog to remain with a key adult.			



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Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Mrs Pryke both in a well-being and financial aspect. The dog will be insured by the school.	Low	Low	As the dog may be used for 'therapy' work within the school, the school will accommodate costs towards training and assessment of the dog to meet these criteria.			
Claim is made against school about the dog.	School not adequately covered financially.	Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in the school Business Manager's office and renewed annually.	Low	Low				
Dog Phobia	Pupils / visitors	Distress caused through close proximity to dog.	Low	Low	Advise visitors and remove if necessary. Notice signs in school entrance advising of dog presence and noted on school website.  Staff to supervise dog at all times and be sensitive to all children's reactions. Parents to be offered programme of support for child to help overcome aversion.			



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Dog becoming anxious or tired.	Dog	Dog gets irritable or distressed.	Medium	Medium	A safe space on site to be allocated for 'quiet time'. Dog not to be disturbed when in this space with a blanket to cover the crate if needed. When dog is sleeping it will not be woken unless an emergency which will be prompted by key handler.			
Dog pulling on lead	Pupils / staff	Someone being pulled over	Low	Low	Only walked by an adult, in a way appropriate with its training.			
Dog's reaction to children's' behaviour. Banging doors / pulling hair.	Dog/ Pupils/ Staff	Dog becoming scared and anxious.	Low	Low	Educating children how to behave when dog is on school site. If this happens the dog will be removed to its 'safe' area and only reintroduced to education zone when trust has been re-established.			

DATE IMPLEMENTED: January 2020

REVIEW DATE: January 2021