



Stratton
School

Risk Assessment Dog in School

Version Number:	5
Applicable To:	Whole school community
Date created and by	14 th July 2023 Natalie Bramley Updated July 2024. 2025
Date of Next Review:	July 2026

The aim of introducing a school dog.

To have a dog that the children could learn how to care for, interact safely around and also benefit their social and emotional development

Children will learn the principles of good pet ownership and be taught how to handle dogs safely and responsibly; they will take great enjoyment from interaction with the dog.

The dog will live with Miss Rooney in their home at their own expense and be introduced to the school environment and the children gradually.

There are no diseases that could be caught from the dog as he will be kept up to date with immunisations including rabies, and worming treatment as in line with European vet guidelines. A register of his annual health check will be kept both by Miss Rooney and the vet’s surgery. 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 Miss Rooney of their wishes. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually, and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by Miss Rooney and Miss Bramley.

Significant Hazards and Associated Risks	Those who might be harmed	Residual Risk Rating	Control Measures:
Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	(H / M / L)	Controls, including relevant sources of guidance and actions to be taken to minimise risks.
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child/staff knocked to ground Child/staff scratched by dog Child/staff bitten by dog	L L M	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises unsupervised. Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. During the school day the dog will always be on a lead when he is out of his bed in the Learning Hub office.

			<p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or bite the children.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies – ‘standing tall like a tree’).</p> <p>The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed.</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and the expectations.</p>
<p>Keeping safe when dog walking.</p>	<p>Child/staff knocked to ground.</p> <p>Child/staff scratched by dog.</p> <p>Child/staff bitten by dog.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>M</p>	<p>A member of staff will always have the school dog on the lead and have responsibility to ensure that they have control of him.</p> <p>Children, in small groups, may walk the school dog with a member of staff. The member of staff or designated student will always hold the lead. Children are reminded how to keep safe crossing the road and are supervised at all times by the member of staff. (Permission to walk offsite will be gained from parents/carers beforehand).</p> <p>The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will remind children of the importance of washing hands on return to school.</p> <p>Children will be given the choice if they would like to stroke the school dog. They will be reminded on return to school to wash their hands.</p> <p>All members of the school community to be vigilant to look where they are walking to avoid tripping over the dog.</p> <p>The dog to be on a short lead when walking around school with a member of staff.</p>

The dog being a tripping hazard.	Child/staff/ Parent/visitor	L	The dog's crate is big enough for him to be happy and safe in if he needs to be restrained for a short period of the day. The door to the office will be shut if the dog is in his bed.
The dog gets loose from office area, his bed or from his lead.	Child/staff knocked to ground	L	If the dog does get loose from the Learning Hub office or his bed the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in the Learning Hub office.
	Child/staff scratched by dog	L	There are three members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if he needs attention at any other time, they are:
	Child/staff bitten by dog	M	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miss Rooney (Assistant Principal) 2. Miss Bramley (Senco)
Dog hair causing allergies	Children/staff have allergic reaction	L	<p>The school dog is a Red Labrador and is groomed regularly to reduce the chance of an allergic reaction. Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to the introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by Miss Rooney .</p> <p>Staff members will also be asked to inform the Principal of any allergies.</p> <p>Fully supervised, children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Wounds on exposed skin will be covered.</p> <p>Flea treatment will be carried out at monthly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals.</p> <p>If the dog is sick, he will not come into school until he is better.</p> <p>The dog will never go into a food preparation area and/ or the kitchen.</p>

Children catching disease from the dog.	Children/staff contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	L	Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it appropriately. safe manner. Poo bags will be carried by the staff member walking the dog.
			All immunisations will be kept up-to-date and a register of this is kept by Miss Rooney .
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day-to-day upkeep or medical bills	L	<p>The dog is the financial responsibility of Miss Rooney . She is financially responsible for all his care and day-today costs.</p> <p>The dog is the responsibility of Miss Rooney outside of school hours.</p> <p>Dog training costs will be paid for by Miss Rooney . As the dog gets older, if he is suitable, he may be trained as a 'pets as therapy' dog. If this is the case, then the school may pay a contribution towards these additional training costs.</p>
Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	L	Miss Rooney will insure the dog's medical needs. Liability insurance will be held and will be renewed annually. The certificates are kept in the school office.
Fire Alarm	Who has responsibility to remove dog from the building	M	Dog signed in as a member of staff so fire marshals know when he is onsite.
Noise / Barking	Pupils who will be distracted by the noise	L	Labradors are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children. The dog has been introduced to Miss Rooney 's children from birth so is used to a noisy environment, therefore reducing the chance of him barking.
Dog Phobia	Distress caused by close proximity to the dog		<p>Parents have been asked to inform the school if their child is scared to be in close contact with the dog.</p> <p>Parents also offered the option of their child having no close contact. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the Learning Hub staff.</p> <p>Visitors will be advised that a dog is in the office and removed if requested. Notice in school entrance and noted on school website.</p>