

Risk Assessment for St Mary of the Angels – Therapy Dog

<p>Date: September 2023</p> <p>Written and agreed by: Headteacher, Dog Owner & Governors</p>		<p>Who is at risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils • Staff • Visitors • The Therapy Dog 			<p>General Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a definite educational reason and justification for keeping animals in schools or bringing animals into a school. They should be 'used' and not just for 'decoration'. • Keeping an animal requires time and commitment. It must be clear who is to look after the animals and who would deputise in their absence • Pupils must be given training in how to handle animals and must <u>always</u> be closely supervised. • Animal housing (Crate) must be easy to clean, secure and chosen to meet the needs of the animal. • All equipment must be kept clean. • If the animal is ill, alternative arrangement would be made for his care and he would not be allowed back into school until fully recovered. • School should be aware of any medical issues in school whereby a pupil or member of staff may have sensitivities or potentially suffer allergic reactions. Precautions will need to be put in place to limit contact with these individuals. 		
<p>How long is this RA valid for:</p> <p>Our RA will be reviewed annually and in any case when either the current assessment is no longer valid and/or if at any stage there has been significant changes to the specific activity or task. It will be reviewed following an accident, incident or ill-health event in order to verify if the control measures and level of evaluated risk where appropriate or require amendment.</p>							
Identified Hazards	Hazard Effect	Probability	Severity	Risk Rating	Actions Taken to Reduce Risk	Residual Risk	
		L = Low	M= Medium	H=High		L M H	
<p>Animal Health Diseases, parasites and animal health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/Students and Visitors • Risk of spread of disease/infections 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog to have necessary vaccinations before coming into school. • Dog to have regular veterinary checks. • Dog to live with family and owner when not in school. • Dog will be wormed as per veterinary instructions. • Dog to be kept free of fleas and ticks and precautions followed as per veterinary instructions. • Dog cage/area so that the dog has an area to relax and sleep at various points of the school day. • Dog will not be allowed access to dining area. 	L	
<p>Bites, cuts and scratches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/Students and Visitors • Risk of injury, disease and infection 	M	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no unsupervised contact with students. • Dog will be closely supervised and staff handling the dog will be trained to understand and recognise the signs of the dog being over stimulated or anxious and will remove the dog to a safe place (Dog Cage/Area) to rest. • Staff and students will be made aware of the procedures of meeting and handling the dog (Small groups, hand washing etc). • First-aid kit will kept close at hand and first-aiders will be called appropriately and will follow school policy. • In the event of a bite (even accidental) parents will be informed immediately. 	L	

<p>Use of therapy dog in the outside space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/Students and Visitors Risk of injury, disease and infection. 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no unsupervised contact with students. Dog will be closely supervised and staff handling the dog will be trained to use only designated area (Tarmac or small pitch at either end of KS2 playground) when off lead. All pupils are made aware of his position. Small groups designated to play (KS1 children) and selected KS2 dog handlers will be supervised by designated adult. Staff and students will be made aware of the procedures when Dog is playing with small groups. In the event of salt being used on the Yard – Dog will not be taken outside to prevent damage to his paws. Dog will be supervised when working with other pupils on the yard when walking on a lead or off. 	L
<p>Noise and barking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/Students and Visitors - affecting staff and students who cannot cope with noise. 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed of dog (Labradoodle) are known to be sociable dogs and are often used as school dogs as they are known to be easily trainable and good with children. The dog will be introduced to the students and environment from an early age so will be acclimatised to a noisy environment and therefore reduce the chance of it barking. 	L
<p>Allergy or Phobias</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affecting staff and students who suffer with allergies – potential of skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose or breathing difficulties. Anxiety 	M	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed of dog (Labrodoodle) are considered to be hypoallergenic, therefore pose low risk to allergy sufferers. Students / staff known to have allergic reactions / phobias to dogs to have restricted access. Good general hygiene and hand washing procedure's followed Alcohol Sanitizer to be available at all times. A post will be placed on school website letting parents know there will be a dog on site so if they have a child with an allergy to let the school know. Dog will be kept cleaned and groomed. Dog cage/area will be placed in an area where flow of children is minimal and controlled. Room where dog is to be kept well ventilated. All bedding, crate and equipment to be cleaned regularly. First-aid procedures to be followed if allergy occurs. Staff to be made aware of when the dog may be in yard or garden areas to ensure students and staff with allergies do not encounter the dog by chance. 	L
<p>Hygiene Infection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, students and visitors Potential spread of infection and disease 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision for hand washing (soap & water) readily available. Paper towels provided rather than communal hand towels. Do not allow students to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed. All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered. Soiled bedding disposed of in sealed plastic bags with normal refuse. Foodstuffs stored carefully to prevent contamination and infestation. 	

Dog excrement & Urine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, Students & Visitors Potential to spread disease and infection. 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog will be wormed. Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by the adult with responsibility at the time. Hand washing facilities close to where the dog will be. A bag containing plastic bags, kitchen roll and rubber gloves will be made available to the member of staff walking/Working with the dog. 	L
Fire drill and evacuation of dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff – Health & Safety 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will be aware of fire procedures when in charge of the dog. Dog's name will be added to the fire staff register in order for check's to be made of safety of the dog. 	L
A third party could sue the school for injury caused by the dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff – Legal implications 	L	L	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will ensure that the dog is covered under their insurance policy including third party liability insurance. 	L

Is the risk adequately controlled with existing control measures? Yes No

Is such risk level deemed to be as low as reasonably practicable? Yes No

Have you identified further control measures needed to control the risk? Yes No

FURTHER CONTROLS:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be used as a **control measure** only as a last resort when it has proven to be impossible or impractical for the potential hazard itself to be removed.

<p><u>Probability Key:</u></p> <p>L = No Chance</p> <p>M = Medium Chance</p> <p>H = High Chance, Very High Chance</p>	<p><u>Severity Key</u></p> <p>L = No injury/Minor first aid</p> <p>M = First aid treatment, Doctor or Hospital.</p> <p>H = Major injury/Reportable Accident.</p>	<p><u>Key:</u></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>L</td><td>X</td><td>L</td><td>=</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>L</td><td>X</td><td>M</td><td>=</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>L</td><td>X</td><td>H</td><td>=</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>X</td><td>M</td><td>=</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>M</td><td>X</td><td>H</td><td>=</td><td>H</td></tr> <tr><td>H</td><td>X</td><td>H</td><td>=</td><td>H</td></tr> </table>	L	X	L	=	L	L	X	M	=	M	L	X	H	=	M	M	X	M	=	M	M	X	H	=	H	H	X	H	=	H	<p><u>Residual Risk</u></p> <p>Low = Acceptable</p> <p>Medium & High Requires additional Action to reduce risk</p>
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