

NORTHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Risk Assessment



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| Risk assessment for: | Therapy dog coming in to school | Assessment completed by: | Amanda Harrison |
| Manager approval: | Governing Body | Review date: | September 2026 |

Rationale and Learning Outcomes for this activity:

- Teaching children how to care for animals
- Reinforcement of positive behaviours for all pupils – used as a therapy dog to help calm and regulate children who become unsettled and as a reading dog to support individual learners
- Supporting children’s personal development and confidence around animals; teaching safe handling of animals

| Hazard / Risk | Who is at risk? | How can the hazard(s) cause harm? | Normal control measures | Are normal control measures | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | In place? | Adequate? |
| Animal Health Diseases, parasites | Staff, pupils and visitors | Disease / infections | • Dog wormed and vaccinated regularly; will not be brought into school if showing any signs of being unhealthy | Y | Y |
| | | | • Dog toileted in designated space separate from public access areas of the school; all mess cleared up immediately and disposed of in sealed plastic bags (with normal refuse) | Y | Y |
| | | | • Garden area to be used for dog to run freely to get exercise. Must be with an adult at all times who is responsible for him. | Y | Y |
| | | | • If a class wants to use the garden area then they must check to see if the garden is free and if Khush is inside the building | Y | Y |
| Bites and scratches | Staff, pupils and visitors | Disease / infections | • Dog accustomed to regular handling | Y | Y |
| | | | • Pupils instructed in handling the dog and supervised closely by the senior staff member | Y | Y |
| | | | • Dog kept under close control, kept away from face, claws clipped regularly | Y | Y |

NORTHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT

| Hazard / Risk | Who is at risk? | How can the hazard(s) cause harm? | Normal control measures | Are normal control measures | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | In place? | Adequate? |
| Allergies / phobias | Staff, pupils and visitors | Skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose, breathing difficulties | • Children / staff known to have allergic reactions / phobias to specific animals to have restricted access | Y | Y |
| | | | • Dog to be based in Head Teacher's office with clear signage | Y | Y |
| | | | • Good general hygiene and handwashing practices followed | Y | Y |
| Hygiene Infection | Staff, pupils and visitors | Disease / infections | • Adequate provision for hand washing (soap/sanitiser) readily available; paper towels provided | Y | Y |
| | | | • Children not allowed to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed; younger pupils supervised to wash their hands | Y | Y |
| | | | • All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered | Y | Y |