

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 2024 |

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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog wormed and vaccinated regularly; will not be brought into school if showing any signs of being unhealthy • 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. Garden area to be used by all adults unless the dog is being taken out by a class. Adult in charge of the dog to take a bag and clear any mess made whilst out with the class. | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| Bites and scratches | Staff, pupils and visitors | Disease / infections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog accustomed to regular handling • Pupils instructed in handling the dog and supervised closely by the staff member • Dog kept under close control, kept away from face, claws clipped regularly | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| Allergies / phobias | Staff, pupils and visitors | Skin rashes, irritation to the eyes and nose, breathing difficulties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children / staff known to have allergic reactions / phobias to specific animals to have restricted access • Dog to be based in Head Teacher’s office | Y | Y |
| | | | | 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? |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good general hygiene and handwashing practices followed • Children can use the external door via the garden if they need to speak to the Head Teacher and are worried about being in the same vicinity as the dog • The dog may bark when there are new visitors to the school. It is the adult's responsibility to help the dog remain calm and feel safe with new people using the command, "LEAVE" as this will stop the dog barking. If the dog is distressed it will be moved to an alternative space within the Head Teacher's office area • There will be a sign on the door of the designated area where the dog resides to remind people to keep the door always closed | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| Hygiene Infection | Staff, pupils and visitors | Disease / infections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision for hand washing (soap/sanitiser) readily available; paper towels provided • Children not allowed to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed; younger pupils supervised to wash their hands if required • All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |
| | | | | Y | Y |

subject

date