



## Dog in school: risk assessment for pupils at school

Assessment conducted by:	Job title: Headteacher	Covered by this assessment: pupils, staff and other relevant individuals.
Date of assessment: Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Review interval: Annual	Date of next review: 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

Risk rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	<b>Major</b> Causes major physical injury, harm or ill-health.	High (H)	H	Medium (M)
	<b>Severe</b> Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	H	M	Low (L)
	<b>Minor</b> Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	M	L	L

**Area: Interaction with pupils and staff**

**Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times**

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
School dog biting a child or adult - child or adult could be hurt if the dog bites	<b>M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils instructed in handling animals and always closely supervised</li> <li>• Dog always on lead and with an adult</li> <li>• Petting by invite only – pupils taught how to approach the dog safely</li> <li>• Very strict about dog jumping up.</li> <li>• Very strict about dog walking etiquette</li> <li>• Dog will be trained not to bite (he may nibble as a puppy)</li> <li>• Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision.</li> <li>• Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in an agreed way, following dog code of conduct for working with Benji, which has been shared with all staff and children. Children and adults to be trained in this.</li> </ul>	Y	<b>SS/RC/LR/KL/AJ</b>	<b>ongoing</b>	<b>L</b>
Jumping and scratching - If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave scratch marks	<b>M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benji is being trained not to jump up using rewards and positive reinforcement.</li> <li>• Benji has visited school to get used to the environment whilst the children are not there.</li> <li>• Pupils instructed in handling animals and always closely supervised</li> <li>• Dog always on lead and with an adult</li> <li>• Petting by invite only – pupils taught how to approach the dog safely</li> <li>• Very strict about dog jumping up.</li> <li>• Very strict about dog walking etiquette</li> <li>• Ensure a carefully planned and controlled induction for Benji into the school environment.</li> <li>• Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision.</li> <li>• Benji will have a designated area in the Head’s office where he can relax.</li> </ul>	Y	<b>SS/RC/LR/KL/AJ</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>L</b>

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In time Benji to have a timetable to monitor the amount of interaction.</li> </ul>				
<p>Fear/phobias- Children or adults may be afraid of dogs.</p> <p>If the dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scared or scratched</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey carried out to find out which children can work with Benji, which are cautious and which cannot work with Benji</li> <li>No interaction to be allowed without authorisation.</li> <li>Benji is to be supervised by an adult at all times (this will be either be by LR, SS, RC or ST).</li> <li>Interaction to be cancelled if the dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour.</li> <li>Rewards/praise to be used to reinforce correct behaviours</li> <li>Parents/carers to be offered differing levels of interaction with the dog for their child/children – ensure these arrangements are strictly adhered too.</li> <li>Ensure that the dog is always approached in the agreed manner (training to be provided to all children and staff)</li> <li>Benji to have a safe area in the Head’s office where he can relax.</li> <li>Interaction is not compulsory</li> </ul>	YES	SS/RC/LR/AJ/ KY	Ongoing	L
<p>Destruction of materials/resources-</p> <p>If allowed, the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog will be contained at all times-either in a crate, room, play pen or on the lead.</li> <li>The school dog will have his own toys to play with.</li> <li>Monitor that all equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective.</li> <li>Ensure the children do not give the school dog ‘toys/gifts’ through training and careful adult supervision</li> </ul>	YES	SS/LR/RC/AJ/	Ongoing	L
<p>Running loose - If the dog was to run loose he could hurt children/adults or damage property</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dog will be contained at all times, either in his fenced off area, a closed room or on a lead – supervised by an adult.</li> <li>Clear signage to be used so that children and adults know if Benji is in a room.</li> </ul>	Yes	LR/SS/All staff	Ongoing	L

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor all the equipment and procedures used to contain the school dog</li> </ul>				

**Area: Pupil and staff interaction with the school dog**

**Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times.**

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the dog - If a child or adult interacts with the school dog in an incorrect or inconsistent way this may affect the dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and adults will be expected to follow agreed guidelines when interacting with the school dog.</li> <li>No interaction without authorisation from Mrs Sillito (and parents/carers).</li> <li>No unsupervised interactions.</li> <li>Use regular assemblies (termly initially) to teach the children and staff the guidelines for interacting with the dog.</li> <li>If there are any inconsistencies in approach the adult/child will have the interaction stopped immediately</li> </ul>	Yes	<b>SS/RC/LR/AJ/ KY /all staff</b>	Ongoing	L

Use of rewards/treats- Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children/adults must wash hands immediately after handling rewards/treats.</li> <li>Anti-bacterial gel to be available in addition.</li> <li>Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation and supervision from an adult</li> <li>Reminders to wash hands to be included in school dog assemblies.</li> <li>Treats to be stored safely to ensure they can only be given with supervision</li> </ul>	yes	SS/RC/LR/AJ/ KY		L
Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a dog- If children or adults have limited knowledge of how to correctly interact with dogs it may cause harm to themselves or the dog (including becoming scared)	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be agreed guidelines for interacting with the school dog.</li> <li>Use regular assemblies (termly initially) to teach the children and staff the guidelines for interacting with the dog.</li> <li>Benji code to be displayed in all classrooms and referred to before Benji visits.</li> <li>Children to attend workshops run by the Dogs Trust to teach them about how to interact with dogs (not until after April due to Dog's Trust staff being on furlough)</li> </ul>	yes	All staff		L

### Area: Health/Hygiene

**Reason: To ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the dog being in school**

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Worms/fleas/tics- If the dog is not treated for worms/fleas/tics, there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benji will be treated regularly as advised by the vet (monthly for worms/fleas and tics). Possibly tape worm prevention medication – to be discussed with vet.</li> <li>Benji will have 6 monthly health checks with the vet</li> <li>Benji is registered at Wotton Vet surgery.</li> </ul>	Y	LR		L

Faeces - If a child/adult comes in contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog will only be walked under adult supervision.</li> <li>No child will pick up the dog's faeces.</li> <li>Dog hygiene box to include bags, anti-bacterial gel and wipes.</li> <li>The adult in charge of the dog is responsible for removing any faeces and disposing of them appropriately.</li> <li>In the unlikely event that a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult.</li> <li>Benji will be trained to go to the toilet in an allocated area away from the children. He will be taken there regularly throughout the day by an adult.</li> </ul>	Y	SS/LR/All staff to be aware	ongoing	L
Allergies - If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents/carers to be offered differing levels of interaction with the dog for their child/children through an annual survey or as children start the school – ensure these arrangements are strictly adhered too.</li> <li>Parents requested to advise school about an allergy</li> <li>Dog is regarded as a hypoallergenic breed</li> <li>Children and adults must wash hands after spending time with the dog.</li> <li>If a child has a mild allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child.</li> <li>In the case of a severe allergy the arrangements to have a school dog on the premises would be reviewed to check the pupil is safe</li> <li>Signs on doors to indicate if the dog is in that room.</li> </ul>	Y	SS/RC/all staff	onging	L
Contact with food preparation areas- If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog will be kept in a contained area or on a lead at all times.</li> <li>He will not enter the school kitchen, cookery room or dining area (at meal times).</li> </ul>	y	All staff	gOngoin	L
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog - If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All adults and children will clean hands before and after interaction with the school dog.</li> <li>Remind children during School Dog Assemblies.</li> </ul>	y	All staff	Ongoine	L

Health and hygiene of the school dog- If the dog is not kept clean and healthy, children/adults may become unwell after handling her		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miss Radcliffe keeps Benji clean and groomed. He fur and nails will be clipped regularly</li> <li>• He has six-monthly check-ups at the vet.</li> <li>• Miss Radcliffe to check Benji daily before leaving for school to ensure he is clean.</li> <li>• Benji will not be brought to school if he is unwell.</li> </ul>	Y	LR	Ongoing	L
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**Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking**

**Reason: To ensure the school dog has meaningful and safe impact on the school community**

Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L

Walking the dog on site - Children could be harmed when walking the dog onsite if he pulls them over	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An adult or a child under adult supervision will always be responsible for holding the lead.</li> <li>No child will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless given permission.</li> <li>Breed chosen as it is a small/medium size dog rather than a large bred.</li> <li>Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is walked during break and lunchtimes.</li> </ul>	Y	SS, RC, AJ, LR, KY		L
Visits to classrooms- If the school dog visits a classroom and the children do not follow the correct procedure Benji may become over excited and jump up – potentially hurting a child	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children will be taught the guidelines for interacting with the school dog and follow these.</li> <li>All visits will be supervised by an adult (initially this will be Mrs. Sillito).</li> <li>Ensure that all children know how to interact with the dog on classroom visits through guidelines and assemblies.</li> <li>If the school dog becomes too excited she will be removed from the classroom.</li> </ul>	Y	All staff	ongoing	L
Meet and greets at the start and end of the day – if adults and children do not follow the correct procedure Benji may become over excited and jump up – potentially hurting someone or get hurt himself		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benji to be on the lead or in an adults arms initially.</li> <li>Children and parents given information on how to interact with Benji.</li> <li>Benji to be brought inside if he gets over excited.</li> </ul>	Y	SS/RC/CG/AJ	ongoing	L
School events- If the school dog is overwhelmed he may become boisterous and jump up – potentially hurting a child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a supervising adult</li> <li>Monitor the dog’s reaction to school events. If the events are too overwhelming, the school dog might not be able to attend.</li> </ul>	y	SS/RC/LR/AJ/ KY	Ongoing	L

Other dogs (on and off the site)- If the school dog is excited by other dogs she may become boisterous and jump up – potentially hurting a child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs are not allowed on the school premises.</li> <li>• Wider school community to be reminded of policy regarding dogs when notified about the school dog arrangements.</li> <li>• Benji will attend puppy classes and be well socialised with other dogs.</li> </ul>		SS/RC/LR/AJ/ KY		L
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Area: Emergency situations						
Reason: To ensure the school dog has meaningful and safe impact on the school community						
Area for concern	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	By whom?	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L

<p>Evacuation due to fire alarm- Children could be harmed if the dog gets in their way when leaving the building. Children could become distressed and try to return into the building for the dog.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog will be put onto a lead.</li> <li>• The children will be evacuated before the dog.</li> <li>• The dog will be taken outside with the children.</li> <li>• An adult will always be responsible for holding the lead.</li> <li>• Lead must be kept easily accessible and visible at all times</li> <li>• The children must remain priority for evacuation.</li> </ul>	Y	SS/RC	Ongoing	L
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