



Hilltop First School and Foundation Stage

Dog in School Risk Assessment

Document author	LB
Approved by	FGB
Approval date	16 September 2024
Review date	16 September 2027

Hilltop First School

Dog in school risk assessment

Rationale

- Dogs teach children responsibility. Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
- Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
- Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
- Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk is easy.
- Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.

Poppy is Ms Bima's dog. She is a Cavachon – her mum is a Bichon Frise and her dad is a Cavalier King Charles spaniel. She is full of energy and loves a cuddle. Her favorite game is fetching a ball or Frisbee and she is pretty good at bringing these back. She also loves to play with a football.

Hazard	Who might be at risk and how	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures
Bites	• Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites	low	• Poppy has a good temperament and has been exposed to small children since she was a puppy. • Children are taught how to approach and interact with Poppy. • An adult will always be present when Poppy is interacting with children.
Jumping up / scratching	• If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark		• Poppy has a good temperament and has been exposed to small children since she was a puppy. • Poppy is encouraged not to jump up and has been trained to sit. • Adults will supervise interaction between Poppy and children.
Poor hygiene and health risks	• If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans • If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred	low	• Poppy's vaccinations are up to date. She is regularly wormed and treated for fleas • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with Poppy. • All dog waste is safely bagged and disposed of. • Poppy is not permitted in the school kitchen. • Poppy is discouraged from licking and children are taught not to put their face down next to her face.

Hazard	Who might be at risk and how	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures
Allergies	- If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell - If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell.	low	- Poppy is a cavachon. This is a low moulting breed. - Where we are informed that a child is allergic to animals they will have no contact with Poppy. - All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with Poppy.
Phobias	Some adults and children are fearful of animals	low	- Contact with Poppy is optional. - Where parents/carers have expressed a preference that their children do not come into contact with Poppy, this is respected.
Activities and games involving the dog	- If the children do not follow the correct procedure the school dog may become over excited. - If the school dog is overwhelmed he may become aggressive or boisterous	low	- An adult will always supervise any child playing or cuddling with Poppy. - Children are taught that they must let Poppy come to them rather than chasing after her. - School staff will remove children who misbehave or upset Poppy - Poppy returns to Ms Bima's office when after a period of play so that she does not become over tired or distressed. - Children may only feed Poppy treats when invited to do so by Ms Bima.
Other dogs on site	If the school dog is overwhelmed he may become aggressive or boisterous	low	- Other dogs may only be brought on site with the headteacher's permission. They must remain on lead at all times. - Any contact between Poppy and another dog will only occur under Ms Bima's supervision and with her permission
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	The school dog could chew school materials found on site	low	- Poppy is kept in Ms Bima's office with a wooden gate - Poppy has lots of toys which she knows she is allowed to play with. - Areas are checked for small objects which she could pick up before Poppy is let off the lead.