



Dog in schools: risk assessment



Assessment by: Claire Lewis	Date: July 2024	Target Date for review: July 2025
Approved by: FGB	Position: Governors	Date: 9 th July 2024
Description of the activity being assessed: Molly, the school dog		

The Purpose

- 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 will be a walk in the park (pun intended). It can also be beneficial when meeting dogs in the wider community.
- Dogs are comforting.** Dogs can help to reduce anxiety and calm children/adults who are upset.
- 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.

Introduction

The Georgian Gardens Primary School dog, Molly, lives with Mrs Lewis and her family. Although she was bought with the aim of becoming a school dog, she is firstly a much loved family dog. Molly is a brown and white sprocker spaniel puppy and was initially raised with her Mum, Dad and their family who have children until she was old enough to move in with the Lewis family.

Sprocker spaniels are not hypoallergenic but do have less dander than other breeds. There is no such things as a completely hypoallergenic dog.

Molly visits the vet for check ups and to have her vaccinations. She has completed and continues to complete training with professional dog trainers.

Identify the hazards (anything that could cause harm)	Who might be harmed and how?	What control measures are already in place?	What further action do you need to take?	Action completed by (name & date)
Dog Excrement & Urine .	Injury could occur to staff, pupils or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog will be wormed, vaccinated and kept free of fleas, ticks etc. • Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically. • Hand cleansing facilities made available close to where the dog will be housed. • A bag containing poo bags/plastic bags, kitchen roll, antibacterial spray, rubber gloves etc will be available. • When the dog is on a walk, the member of staff walking her will have poo bags to take with them. It is that staff member's responsibility to ensure that excrement is picked up and disposed of in the agreed refuse bin. • The dog will be taken for a walk before coming on to the school site to minimize the need to excrete on site. • Dog is exercised regularly 	Ensure control measures are actioned/implemented and clearly communicated.	
Allergic Reaction to Dog.	Injury could occur to staff, pupils or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will be asked to inform the school of any known allergies or phobias. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on Bromcom and shared with staff. • Dog is kept clean and well groomed. • Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. • Dog bed in cage/crate in offices and baby gate on office door to ensure no accidental contamination or encounters with visitors. • Signs displayed warning of dog presence. • Offices where dog rests are kept well ventilated. • Dog bedding and equipment washed and kept to a high standard. • Regular vacuuming and cleaning of office. • Lint rollers to be provided to remove dog hair from clothes. • Hand cleansing facilities and first aid kit are located near office. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will not go in the school dining hall at meal times; she will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen. 		
Scratches, Dog Bite.	Injury could occur to staff, pupils or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog chosen has been trained to be sociable and is good natured. Children will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will continually be given to children in whole school assembly, specific workshops from outside professionals, including the Blue Cross / Dog Trust, in class time and PSHE lessons. Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms, standing tall like a tree) Dog's contact with the pupils is always supervised. Dog is closely supervised and kept under control when out of its base/crate. Pupils and staff should be made aware of the procedures and etiquette on meeting and handling the dog, which will always be under supervision, to ensure any risk is minimised. Anyone entering the dog's safe place (Assistant Head's office/ The Hub area) will be warned about the dog's presence in advance. This will be through the use of words and visuals. Visitors will be asked not to greet the dog until she is sat down rather than excitedly greeting or jumping. 		
Noise, barking.	Injury could occur to staff, pupils or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog chosen has been trained to be sociable and is good natured. The dog is acclimatised to a noisy environment such as a school. If dog does start to bark excessively, it will be removed from the situation that is causing it to bark. 		
Fire Drill, evacuation of dog	Injury could occur to staff, pupils or visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog will be under the supervision of a member of staff at all times, and will exit the building with staff. If the dog refuses to leave for any reason, staff will not delay their own exit as it could risk their safety. 		
Dog welfare and safety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will have quiet time away from the children in her crate undisturbed. If the dog is sick, she will not come in to school. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog will have time to exercise with a member of staff during the school day. <p>There are designated members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if she needs attention at any other time, they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Lewis (Assistant Headteacher). • Miss Lewry (Family Support Manager). • Mrs King (SALT TA) • Ms Watts (Learning Mentor) • Miss Bowers (Headteacher) • Mrs Fenn (Business Manager) 		
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Risk assessment review date	Reviewed by	What changes were made	How was it communicated?

