

# Risk Assessment

Purpose and introduction  
Interaction with pupils and staff  
Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog  
Hygiene/Health  
Activities involving the school dog, including walking

**Risk Assessment Completed: 14.07.23**

# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Purpose</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Dogs teach children responsibility.</b> 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.</li><li>2. <b>Dogs teach children patience.</b> Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!</li><li>3. <b>Dogs teach children compassion.</b> Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.</li><li>4. <b>Dogs teach children about socialisation.</b> 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).</li><li>5. <b>Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun.</b> They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.</li></ol> <p>Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness. Dogs can sense when children with epilepsy are about to have a seizure, they can sense when a diabetic child's sugar is low, and they can help children with severe physical disabilities find happiness in life.</p> <p>With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life. After all, dogs are basically four-legged children who never grow up!</p>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Calton Primary's School Dog Mabel lives with the Head Teacher, Mrs. Barker-Doe, and her family. Mabel is a very caring and well-behaved puppy who has the right temperament to become a real asset to Calton Primary School.</p> <p>Mabel's mum is a King Charles Spaniel and her father is a miniature Poodle. This makes Mabel ½ King Charles Spaniel and ½ Poodle - this mix is known as a Cavapoo.</p> <p>Mabel is fully insured by Mrs. Barker-Doe and additional liability insurance is covered by the Local Authority. This means she is able to come into school. Mabel has pet health insurance and regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there, they administer worm and flea treatments as well as conducting a full health check.</p> <p>In addition to the 5 key reasons for Mabel joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe she will improve the children's abilities within the school's core values and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels. Mabel will work with children and adults in line with agreed protocols. Please read Mabel's Passport to get further information on Mabel herself!</p>

# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Area: Interaction with pupils and staff</b>				
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times</b>				
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	<b>Trivial Low Medium High stop</b>	<b>Is anything further needed?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School dog biting a child or adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Mabel lives with 2 children who handle her all the time to ensure that she is used to interaction with children</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jumping up/scratching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The temperament of Mabel and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No interaction will be made with any children unless the school has written permission from parents/guardians</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be under lead control by an authorised adult</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Running loose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in crate or on a lead</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A barrier will be across the office door</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Direct interaction with children/staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ staff could be scratched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No interaction is allowed without authorisation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the school dog is approached in the agreed manner</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be contained at all times</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will have her own toys to play with</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and</li> </ul>

# School Dog Risk Assessment

		and normal school resources will be removed		effective
<b>Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog</b>				
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times</b>				
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	<b>Trivial Low Medium High stop</b>	<b>Is anything further needed?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the school dog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use of rewards/treats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitiser will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reminders to the children to wash hands / use hand sanitiser after handling treats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation</li> </ul>

# School Dog Risk Assessment

Area: Hygiene/Health				
Reason: To ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog to not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school				
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed & how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worms/fleas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be treated monthly at a local vets to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Faeces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will only be walked under supervision</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will have its own contained area for all toileting</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allergies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children can only be in contact with the school dog once the school has written permission from parents/guardians</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Breed has been chosen So that they are as hyper allergenic as possible and therefore does not molt</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children's access to school dog's resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All of the school dogs resources will be locked away</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remind children not to enter area</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contact with food preparation areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> She will never enter the school kitchen</li> </ul>	Trivial	

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<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	<input type="checkbox"/> If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	<input type="checkbox"/> All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Remind children and adults to clean their hands
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<b>Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking</b>				
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community</b>				
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Risk Rating</b>	<b>Step 4</b>
<b>Identify the hazards</b>	<b>Who might be harmed &amp; how?</b>	<b>What are you already doing?</b>	<b>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</b>	<b>Is anything further needed?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking the dog on and off site	<input type="checkbox"/> Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed <input type="checkbox"/> Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place <input type="checkbox"/> No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult <input type="checkbox"/> No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when she is on a walk unless permission is given	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes
<input type="checkbox"/> Visits to classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become over excited	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with Mrs. Barker-Doe or another appropriate adult <input type="checkbox"/> The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure stop	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or Learning Partner
<input type="checkbox"/> Being fed	<input type="checkbox"/> If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating she may respond aggressively	<input type="checkbox"/> No child will be allowed in the school dogs contained area when she is eating <input type="checkbox"/> Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards) <input type="checkbox"/> All feeding will be supervised	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when she is eating
<input type="checkbox"/> School events	<input type="checkbox"/> If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous	<input type="checkbox"/> The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of a	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor the school dogs reaction to school events <input type="checkbox"/> If the school events are

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		supervising adult		too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Other dogs (on site – as agreed by school or off site)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ If the school dog encounters another dog she may become boisterous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises</li> <li>☐ At no time will the school dog be walked by a child and as a result, if another dog is seen this will be dealt with by the supervising adult</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Monitor the school dogs reaction when out walking</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Working between Sites – Playgroup and Primary School.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ The school dog may be overexcited by changing sites in the middle of the day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ The school dog will in the first instance only transfer sites with Mrs. Barker-Doe</li> <li>☐ The school dog will always have time in designated confined spaces (e.g. offices) to settle to the school environment before working with children</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Monitor the school's dog's approach when transferring schools and react appropriately</li> </ul>