

**Head Teacher-** Mrs Christine Turner

**Deputy Head Teacher-** Mr Sam Thompson



## Risk Assessment

This risk assessment aims to identify and mitigate potential hazards associated with having a school dog on the premises, in order to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff, and the dog itself. By thoroughly analysing the risks and implementing appropriate control measures, the school can provide a safe and enjoyable environment for interactions with the school dog.

Dog handlers- Bonnie (Mrs Hall) Dottie- Mrs Turner

| Hazard                                                                                          | Potential Risks                                                                                  | Controls to Mitigate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Person Responsible             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>School dog likes to be stroked but shouldn't have too many children around her at once.</b>  | Overcrowding around the dog leading to potential injuries or distress to the dog.                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Limit the number of pupils interacting with the dog at one time (e.g., one class at a time).</li><li>- Ensure close supervision by the dog's handler or a responsible adult at all times.</li><li>- Teach pupils how to approach and interact with the dog safely (e.g., no running, no pulling the dog's fur/tail, gentle stroking only).</li></ul> | Dog Handler, Class Teachers    |
| <b>School dog may get hot or tired and needs time to stay with her owner in an office area.</b> | Overexertion or distress to the dog, leading to potential behavioural issues or health concerns. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide the dog with regular breaks in a quiet, designated area (e.g., the dog handler's office).</li><li>- Monitor the dog's energy levels and body language, and remove the dog from interactions if she appears stressed or fatigued.</li></ul>                                                                                                   | Dog Handler                    |
| <b>School dog needs water regularly.</b>                                                        | Dehydration or health issues for the dog.                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure the dog has access to clean, fresh water at all times.</li><li>- Regularly check and refill the dog's water bowl.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dog Handler                    |
| <b>Snapping or biting if the dog feels scared or hurt.</b>                                      | Potential injuries to pupils or staff from the dog's aggressive behaviour.                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide comprehensive training for the dog and her handler to prevent and manage aggressive behaviours.</li><li>- Closely monitor the dog's interactions and remove her from situations where she appears stressed or uncomfortable.</li><li>- Teach pupils how to recognise and respect the dog's body language and boundaries.</li></ul>           | Dog Handler, School Leadership |

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| Hazard                                                     | Potential Risks                                                                     | Controls to Mitigate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Person Responsible                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Allergic reactions to the dog.</b>                      | Respiratory issues, skin irritation, or other allergic symptoms in pupils or staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use information about any known allergies among the school community.</li><li>- Designate dog-free zones or times to accommodate those with allergies. (no one currently)</li><li>- Ensure the dog is well-groomed and regularly bathed to minimise allergens.</li></ul>                     | Pediatric First Aider, Dog Handler |
| <b>Pupils or staff tripping over the dog.</b>              | Physical injuries from falls or collisions.                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure the dog wears a collar or harness with a clearly visible tag.</li><li>- Teach pupils to be aware of the dog's presence and to walk carefully around her.</li><li>- Restrict the dog's movement in high-traffic areas or during busy times (e.g., class changes).</li></ul>            | Dog Handler, School Leadership     |
| <b>Transmission of diseases or parasites from the dog.</b> | Illness or infection in pupils or staff.                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure the dog is up-to-date with all necessary vaccinations, deworming, and flea/tick treatments.</li><li>- Implement a regular cleaning and disinfection routine for areas where the dog spends time.</li><li>- Teach pupils proper hand hygiene after interacting with the dog.</li></ul> | Dog Handler, Pediatric First Aider |
| <b>Contact with child previously attacked by a dog</b>     | Flash-back to trauma for the child.                                                 | <p>Ensure that any contact is well-planned and communicated to/ discussed with mum.</p> <p>Speak with the child first and share dog info e.g. photograph etc.</p> <p>Ensure contact is initiated in a highly controlled environment and stopped at the first sign of any distress.</p>                                               | Key worker, dog handler            |

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Conclusion:

By implementing the suggested control measures and regularly reviewing and updating this risk assessment, the school can provide a safe and enriching environment for pupils to interact with the school dog. Ongoing monitoring, staff training, and clear communication with the school community will be essential to ensure the well-being of all participants.

