



Reading Dog in school risk assessment

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
Bites and scratches	Staff, pupils and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs must have a good temperament and be used to being around children • Dogs must be at least 1 year old • Dogs must be well trained not to bite, scratch or jump up • Handler(s) will remain with dogs at all times • Children are taught how to approach and interact with the dog 	Mrs Garnham
Poor hygiene and health risks	Staff, pupils and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated 	Mrs Garnham

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			<p>for fleas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs are groomed before the visit • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs • Handlers clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely - pupils are told to stay away • Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas 	
Allergies	Staff and pupils	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We seek parental permission for children to interact with dogs • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies 	Mrs Garnham
Phobias	Staff and pupils	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We tell parents and children about the visit in advance • Contact with dogs is optional • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia 	Mrs Garnham

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Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times • Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and ensure the area and activity is safe • We check with the handler(s) and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once • Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces • School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs • We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired 	Mrs Garnham
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all time during the visit • School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs 	Mrs Garnham

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Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs remain on a lead at all times • Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors • Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary • Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit 	Mrs Garnham