



Appendix A – School Dog Risk Assessment

Hazard	At Risk			Existing Control Measures
	Student	Staff	Visitor	
<p><u>Animal behaviour</u></p> <p>Staff, students or visitors could be injured if the school dog is not comfortable in a specific school environment and reacts badly, including bites or scratches</p>	Medium	Medium	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The dog will receive ongoing formal training, socialising and conditioning within the school environment 2. The dog will be provided with a phased integration plan 3. Students and parents are warned of the hazard before therapy sessions with the school therapy dog and take part only with consent 4. Students are taught appropriate behaviour around the school dog, what to do to prevent over stimulating or upsetting the dog and how to remain calm around her using resources such as ‘Safe and Sound’ online training from the Kennel Club 5. Students are closely supervised by an adult during animal assisted therapy sessions 6. Students are never left with the dog unsupervised 7. The school dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult who will have received handling training 8. If the school dog exhibits any warning behaviours such growling or lowered ears she will be removed immediately from students 9. The school dog resides in the therapy room. In the event that the therapist or dog cannot be present in the therapy room the dog will be cared for in the Nurture Room, The Conference Room or the Administration office. Signage will indicate that students are only allowed in these areas with staff supervision. 10. In the event that a student, staff member or visitor is bitten or scratched (even if only a “play” bite) the Family and Student Co-ordinator and qualified nurse will inspect and assess the injury. The suitability of the school dog will then be reassessed by the Safeguarding Lead/Head Teacher
<p><u>Disease, Illness & Allergic Reactions</u></p>	Medium	Medium	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and Miss Hogg

<p>Staff, students or visitors could suffer ill health if they come into contact with animal faeces/urine or have an allergy to dogs</p>				<p>is responsible for keeping a register of this</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Flea treatment is carried out at monthly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out compliant with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals 3. The dog will not go in the school dining hall at any time nor will she be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen or the cooking room 4. The School keep an up to date list of students with known allergic reactions and these students are not present during therapy sessions with the dog 5. The dog is taken regularly outside the school building for toilet facilities by a designated member of staff trained to handle the school dog 6. All waste produced by the dog, whether accidental or routine, is handled and disposed of hygienically by designated staff members only. Contaminated items and surfaces are immediately washed and disinfected 7. Students and adults are not allowed to eat around the school dog 8. Students and adults must always wash their hands after handling the school dog 9. Immediate medical assistance will be sought where an allergic reaction does not subside once the animal and afflicted person are kept apart
<p><u>Animal Phobias</u></p> <p>Staff or students could suffer distress themselves or distress the school dog if they become scared or upset around the school dog</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students are encouraged but never forced to take part in animal assisted therapy 2. Where there are students with phobias, every effort is made to segregate the school dog from those with phobias 3. Outside of therapy sessions the school dog is kept in the therapy room and enters and exits the building outside of break and lesson changeover periods 4. Therapy sessions will take place only in the therapy room, or outside in designated areas
<p><u>School emergency evacuation</u></p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school dog is accompanied by a trained adult at all times. In

<p><u>(including drills)</u></p> <p>The dog could become distressed by the evacuation and behave in an unexpected way, become defensive or try to escape</p>				<p>the event of an emergency evacuation, immediately proceed to the nearest fire exit and then the adult walks as far as possible from other people evacuating whilst maintaining a safe distance from the building.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Where possible, the school dog to be present for sounding of the alarms outside of school hours to observe their response 3. If the dog manages to escape from an adult during the evacuation, the adult must still evacuate immediately and notify staff outside of the dog's absence
<p><u>Claim is made against school</u></p> <p>A parent or visitor could make a claim against the school relating to the behaviour of the dog</p>	Low	High	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school has public liability insurance which covers liability for a working therapy dog where a full risk assessment has been completed 2. The school dog will work towards registration as an Emotional Support Animal, and with certification from Pets as Therapy, once her training and adolescence are complete.