

Chosen Hill School

Dogs in school risk assessment

Assessment conducted by: Beth Staite	Job title: Curriculum & Culture Lead of Hub	Covered by this assessment: All staff, pupils and visitors
Date of assessment: March 2025	Review interval: Annually	Date of next review: March 2026

Related documents: Health and Safety Policy

Co-ordinator: Mrs Beth Staite

Location of base: The Hub – Main room	Location of toileting: Grass area at back of the hub & G-block	Location of exercise: Lower end of the field by the hub.
Registered Veterinary Practice: Wood Veterinary Group 125 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4NB	Costs: All vet bills, vaccinations and food costs to be covered by owner. Mrs Beth Staite	Activities involved: Behaviour support, working with 1:1 students and small groups, supporting students with mental health/anxiety concerns to enter school.
Hygiene: a comprehensive kit bag containing poo bags/ plastic bags, kitchen roll, antibacterial spray, rubber gloves		

Risk rating	Likelihood of occurrence
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		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	Major Causes major physical injury, harm or ill-health.	High (H)	High	Medium (M)
	Severe Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	High	Medium	Low (L)
	Minor Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	Medium	Low	Low

Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
Health – diseases and parasites	H	- The dog has a designated handler who is in charge of feeding and caring for the dog while on school premises, ensuring there is a supply of fresh water available. - The handler is responsible for permitting people to touch the dog. - The dog is permitted in highlighted areas only (Outside areas, inside buildings whilst supervised, no canteen areas are permitted). The areas are kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, pupils, staff and visitors. - The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises. - The dog is fully inoculated.	Y	- The dog will go to the vet for a regular check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases. - The dog will be wormed, vaccinated and kept free of fleas, ticks etc - On hot days, the handler will ensure there is appropriate provision in place to keep the dog cool, and ensure the dog avoids too much activity	BST	March 2025	M

Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
				during the hottest part of the day.			
Hygiene	H	- The dog is suitably toilet trained. - The designated area for the dog to defecate, (public grounds where students are not permitted during social times), is situated away from pupils and staff. - All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler, using a waste bag, and disposed of responsibly and hygienically - The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces. - Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of in sealed clinical waste bags, and into the clinical waste bin. The bins are emptied regularly. - The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. - Any pupils/staff/visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing provision is provided throughout the school. - Anyone touching the dog, who has an exposed wound, must have the wound suitably covered.	Y	- If the dog is ill with an infection or disease, it will not return to the school until it has recovered. - Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog. - A kit bag will be carried by the handler/ member of staff walking the dog - The dog is not permitted into the canteen area of the school (lower school canteen room).	BST And Site team	March 2025 and ongoing	M
Bites and scratches	L	- The dog has been trained well, and is used to coming into close contact with people. The dog has also achieved his kennel club good citizen award. (certificate can be seen) - Pupils/staff/visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. - Pupils/staff/visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dog. - The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.	Y	- Pupils/staff/visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated time-slots. - The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people. - The dog has been chosen for its sociable and good nature.	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L

Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
				- No unsupervised contact with the pupils, staff or visitors - The dog should be closely supervised and kept under control when out of its base - All students, staff and visitors 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. - First aid kit nearby			
Minor injuries related to dog housing and equipment	L	- All dog bedding/housing is regularly checked for defects. - All dog equipment is stored safely when not in use (storage within the hub). - The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips. - Any spillages from the dog's bowl are wiped up immediately.	Y	All dog bedding/housing is replaced annually and cleaned regularly	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L
Allergies	M	- Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dog. - All pupils and staff are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog. - All pupils/staff/visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog.	Y	- All parents informed and requested to alert BST to any allergies - Dog to be kept clean and groomed - Door gates can be put up if needed	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L

Issue	Risk rating prior to action H/M/L	Recommended controls	In place? Yes/No	Recommended further actions to be taken to reduce risks	By whom	Deadline	Risk rating following action H/M/L
				- Signs up to warn of dog presence and any expected procedures - Areas to be kept well ventilated - Dog bedding and equipment washed and kept to a high standard - Regular vacuuming and cleaning of office - Hand cleansing facilities located near office - Notices up to advise where the dog may be encountered so can be avoided, if necessary			
Phobias	M	- Pupils and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dog. - The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler.	Y	- During busy times, such as breaks and time between lessons when lots of pupils and staff will be coming past the dog, the dog will be kept in a safe and secure area away from the commotion. - Only to be off lead when in the hub & supervised by staff or when in the tennis court area with the gates closed, supervising staff & intervention students – not during any PE lessons. Must be on the lead in all other areas of the school.	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L

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Fire Drill	M	When moving to evacuate the dog will be always with a member of inclusion staff & in the designated area.	Y	- A clear evacuation exit will be available for the dog and will not left in the locked room in the building. - The dog will be supervised at all times.	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L
Harm to dog from students (intentional or unintentional)	M	- Dog to be supervised at all times by staff, no student to be left alone with the dog. - Students can only feed the dog the specified dog treats and only under supervision from an adult.	Y	- No students left alone with dog. - Dog to be out of hub at main lunch time – will be with owner in hub kitchen. - Warnings for students to not feed the dog. - Consequences issued to students who fail to follow the instructions.	BST	March 2025 and ongoing	L