

## School Dog Risk Assessment

### **Introduction:**

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility, and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with Woody is invited to write to the school and inform us of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with the dog as the owner will be responsible for vaccinations, including rabies and completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. Woody will also be insured, both by the owner and also on the Essex County Council school liability insurance policy.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff and the governing body.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk 1 – 5</b>	<b>Controls in Place</b>	<b>Review date and Signature</b>
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to the ground.	1	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.	
	Child scratched by dog.	3	Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.	
	Child bitten by dog.	4	The dog will always be on a lead when outside of the headteacher's office, deputy headteacher's office or Pod and has access to a crate in the headteacher's office, which enables the dog to	

			<p>have quiet, calm time.</p> <p>Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.</p> <p>The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment. This training will include reading sessions to involve the school dog and can be done in a calming/therapeutic manner.</p> <p>Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as he progresses..</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog.</p> <p>He will attend the vets regularly to ensure he is in good health and that his claws are kept short.</p>	
The dog gets loose from the office, his crate or lead.	As above	As above	The dog's crate in the headteacher's office is big enough for him to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease him.	

			<p>The dog has a well-fitting collar, a harness and strong lead.</p> <p>A gate has been fitted to the door of the headteacher's office to prevent the dog from being able to wander out of the room. A removable gate is in the Deputy Headteacher's office and the Pod.</p>	
Children and adults having phobias.	People panicking and in fear	1	<p>Parents, children and visitors are notified about the dog in advance of meeting him.</p> <p>Contact with dogs is optional at all times.</p> <p>Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia.</p>	
The dog causing allergies.	Children or staff have allergic reactions	1	<p>Petplan (largest pet insurance provider in the UK) say: "As a low to no shedding breed, the Cockapoo is generally considered to be an allergy-friendly pet. It's important to remember that <b>no dog breed is truly hypoallergenic</b>, but some breeds are better for those with allergies than others."</p> <p>Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school. A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will kept on the school's MIS system.</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash/sanitise their</p>	

			hands after active participation with the dog.	
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	1	<p>Should the dog defecate on the school site, a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way. The area will be disinfected as required.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date and a record will be kept of this.</p> <p>Flea treatment is carried out at monthly intervals and worming will also be carried out six-monthly. (Subscriptions have been created to ensure these treatments are posted to the owner at the required times.)</p> <p>The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash/sanitise their hands after active participation with the dog.</p>	
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers losing control	1	<p>Children will be told in advance what to expect and how to behave.</p> <p>School staff are present at all times during interactions between the dog and children.</p> <p>School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset the dog.</p>	

<p>Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site</p>	<p>Damage to property.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Dog to remain on a lead at all times when outside the headteacher's/deputy headteacher's offices and the Pod.</p> <p>Dog to be kept in secured rooms, with closed doors and suitable gates.</p> <p>Owner to bring suitable toys if necessary.</p> <p>Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before the dog's visit.</p>	
<p>Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.</p>	<p>School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the Betty's day to day upkeep or medical bills.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Mrs Wright both in a well-being and financial aspect.</p> <p>The dog has been added to the Essex Local Authority's school liability insurance and Mrs Wright also has pet insurance.</p>	
<p>Claim is made against the school about the dog.</p>	<p>School not adequately covered financially.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Insurance will cover any claim. The dog has been added to Essex Local Authority's school liability insurance policy. The owner also has pet insurance.</p> <p>Certificates will be kept in office and renewed annually.</p>	