The Winterton Federation Therapy Dog Risk Assessment Record

SITE LOCATION: All Federation school areas			People at Risk						Risk Rate		
			Employees	Students	Other Users	Contractors	Public		Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
Activity / Premises Equipment	**Haz. No**	**Identified Hazard**						**Precautions and Controls**			
Asthmatic/allergic reaction to dog.	**1**	Allergic reaction after contact with dog.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Parents asked to inform the federation of any known allergies prior to interaction with the school dog. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the relevant school recording system. Dog bedding to be washed regularly to reduce dust. Children will have the opportunity to interact with the school dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Children taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.	**B**	**1**	**M**
Cynophobia.	**2**	Distress caused through close proximity to dog.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Staff to supervise school dog at all times and be sensitive to all children's reactions. Parental consent form to be obtained for close contact with the dog. Parents/carers to be offered programme of support for child to help overcome aversion. Visitors to be advised of school dog on site on arrival and the dog moved to safe space if necessary. Notice signs displayed in each school advising of presence of the school dog and noted on Federation website.	**C**	**1**	**L**

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Dog bite/scratching.	**3**	Pupil/staff member/visitor bitten or scratched by dog.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	School dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises when children are in school. Dog to be kept on lead when walking around the school premises. School dog trained to have no mouth/teeth contact and to respond to "no" command. Pupils should approach dog in a calm and appropriate manner. Pupils should never have the opportunity to hit or hurt school dog. Regular reminders should be given to all pupils on the rules of how to behave in the company of the school dog which should also be on display in all classrooms. School dog trained not to jump up. School dog's claws to be kept trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches. Staff to regularly monitor the dog's temperament, behaviour and mood. All immunisations are kept up to date as directed by the vet.	**B**	**2**	**M**
Children/adults coming into contact with dog faeces/vomit.	**4**	Germs from faeces/vomit. Faeces/vomit on shoes and clothing.	✓	✓				Dog walked and toileted on grass in school car park/quad areas. Faeces/vomit removed in pooh bags and area disinfected. Dog regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention.	**C**	**2**	**L**
Dog becoming anxious or tired.	**5**	Pupil/staff member/visitor bitten or scratched by dog.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dog to have safe spaces on school site. Dog not to be disturbed when sleeping or eating, unless in an emergency. Children educated how to behave when dog is on any school site, i.e., not banging doors. If dog becomes anxious it will be removed to safe space and only reintroduced to education zone when trust has been re-established.	**C**	**2**	**L**
Fire alarm.	**6**	Dog becoming distressed at sound of alarm.						Dog to be introduced to fire alarm sound preventing him becoming distressed upon activation. Key member of staff in each area responsible for removing dog from building upon fire alarm activation.	**C**	**2**	**L**
Walking dog on and off site	**7**	Trip/fall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No pupils to take the lead when school dog goes for a walk, unless authorised by an accompanying adult.	**B**	**2**	**M**

Visits to the classroom	**8**	Dog becoming over excited if correct procedures not followed	✓	✓	✓	✓		School dog to only visit classrooms when accompanied by a supervising adult. Pupils follow agreed procedure or interaction is stopped.	**C**	**2**	**L**

Notes on Risk Rates:		**Date**	**24.06.2026**	**Review Date**	**23.06.2027**
Severity:	A: Death, Major injury, damage, loss of property B: 3 days abs, moderate injury /damage C: Minor Injury, loss / damage	**Amendment / Recommendations** None			
Likelihood:	1 – Extremely likely to occur 2 – Likely to occur 3 – Unlikely to occur				
Risk Level:	H – High M – Medium L – Low	**Signature of Assessor**			