



Topic: Dog on school site			People at Risk:	Pupils, staff, visitors	
Assessment carried out by:	K Freame	September 2023	Staff, pupils and any visitor attending the school.	Date of Review:	October 2023

Introduction:

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. 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.

The rationale behind this decision:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow.
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.
- 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 'Honey' is invited to write to Mrs Freame and inform her of their wishes.
- There are no diseases associated with the puppy as her vet will be responsible for vaccinations, including rabies and completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. A copy of Bramble's health records will be updated and kept in school.
- Honey will also be insured.

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



Hazards (Potential to cause harm & consider how a person may be hurt)	Existing Controls	Risk rating*	Further controls necessary	Target Date & By Whom	New Risk Rating**
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children. Child knocked to the ground. Child scratched by dog. Child bitten by dog.	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises. Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog. The dog will always be on a lead or carried when he/she is not in the school offices while the children are in school. 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. Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. The dog will undergo formal training from the age of 20-24 weeks with an experienced dog trainer. Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as he/she progresses through his weekly training. All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog. She will attend the vets regularly to ensure he/she is in good health and that her claws are kept short.	L L L L L L M L L	All staff are aware, adhere to and have read the Therapy Dog policy. It is the member of staff's responsibility not to leave the dog unsupervised around children. During the Dog's training mentorship programme, the dog will have minimal contact with children. When he/she does have contact with children the adult responsible will judge at the beginning of the session that the dog is amenable to work at that moment.		
The dog causing allergies.	Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies.	L	A list of children who cannot have contact with the dog will be made available to all staff and keep in the medical diary.		



Hazards (Potential to cause harm & consider how a person may be hurt)	Existing Controls	Risk rating*	Further controls necessary	Target Date & By Whom	New Risk Rating**
Children or staff have allergic reactions.	Before the introduction of the dog to the school. If required a list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will be kept in school. 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. Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.	L L L	Children with allergies will not be able to make contact with the dog. All children will be reminded to wash their hands by the adults supervising their session/time with the dog.		
Children getting germs from the dog. Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	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. He will be trained to toilet in an area of the grounds that children have limited access to. The area will be disinfected as required. All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a record will be kept of this. Flea treatment is carried out at 4 week intervals. The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall and never in the food preparation area.	L L L L L	Equipment will be available in all offices to clear up any mess. Outside area away from children (near the car park area) This will also be cleared up straight away. Responsibility of Miss Vincent		
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep. School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the dogs day to day upkeep or medical bills.	The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Mrs Freame both in a well-being and financial aspect. Honey will be insured by the school, for Public Liability Insurance. All vet's costs are covered by 'Pet Plan' under his private insurance paid for by Mrs Freame	L L L	SBM to make sure public liability insurance is up to date and covered. Insurance maintained and up to date.		



Hazards (Potential to cause harm & consider how a person may be hurt)	Existing Controls	Risk rating*	Further controls necessary	Target Date & By Whom	New Risk Rating**
	Progress Training are providing puppy training and Paid for by Mrs Freame	L	One to one training will be completed until he/she is fully trained.		
Health & wellbeing of the dog	Honey must not travel up or down stairs until she is one year old. This is a breed-specific requirement		Honey will use the lift in the senior building and will be guided by named handlers down the flights of steps in the main building where necessary.		