

**AREA: Interaction with pupils and Staff****REASON: To ensure the school dog always interacts appropriately.**

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the puppy is invited to write to inform Mrs Pryke of their wishes. The risk assessment will be reviewed annually, and the school senior leadership team will evaluate the impact of a school dog on a regular basis.

**INTRODUCTION**

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have show that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply y making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

**The dog will: -**

- Be regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Be well enough to be in school.
- Receive relevant inoculations.
- Be wormed regularly every six months.
- Have trimmed claws to reduce risk of scratches.
- Be exercised before being allowed to work with children.

The dog owner and handler has the responsibility to ensure that: -

- Dogs are physically fit before visiting the school environment.
- They always remain with the dog.
- The dog is discouraged from jumping, scratching and licking.
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard, i.e. not wet, muddy etc.
- Natural relief from dogs is taken into account prior to working with the pupils

**There will be a number of identified handlers of the dog who will work with Mrs Pryke, the dog and pupils. They are:-**

School site: Mrs Pryke, Mrs Martin, Mr Ferrier, Mr Bailey, Mrs Nugus, Mrs Page and Ms Hussain

College site: Mrs Walker, Mrs Baker, Ms Collins



The Thriftwood dog has been acquired from an accredited and high quality source. The dog's name is Reggie and he is a Wheaten Terrier. Reggie was born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

IDENTIFY THE HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED & HOW?	CURRENT CONTROLS	LEVEL OF RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	ACTIONS TAKEN TO MITIGATE RISK	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
School dog behaving in a naughty way – sitting on chairs, chewing something he shouldn't, over excited play / boisterous play.	Anyone who interferes with him.	Always has a harness on so can be held	High	High whilst in puppy phase	Removed from the area by an identified handler or a member of staff who is very confident with handling over excited dogs. <b>Told No and ignored for a short time.</b> Be on a lead / behind the stair gate for all the times pupils are in school / college.	Seek advice from a behaviourist to ensure dog is safe to have in school and happy.	Identified handler
School dog biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if dog bites	Dog to be with a confident adult and closely supervised when students are in the building.	High whilst a puppy	High whilst a puppy High whilst in adolescence phase	Staff to regularly monitor the dog's temperament, behaviour and mood. Ensure that children do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way – pupils not to tease Reggie. Dog to be on the lead when children are in school / college.	Provide appropriate chew toys.	Mrs Pryke
Dog barking a greeting at visitors or sudden noises	Loud sudden noise may cause distress	Dog will be in a contained area or on a lead.	Low	High – not been used to visitors due to covid. Unexpected / loud noises when	Put the dog in a contained area and close to door to minimise the disruption. Reassure the dog to reduce distress. Talk to the students about why he	Seek advice from a behaviourist to ensure dog is safe to have	Mrs Pryke / SLT



causing him to bark				groups of students move about.	might be barking to provide reassurance.	in school and happy.	
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Jumping up / scratching	If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that he could jump up or leave a scratch mark.	Training will involve not jumping up with praise / rewards being given when successful.	High whilst a puppy	High whilst a puppy High whilst in adolescence phase	Ensure that children do not interact with the school dog without supervision and do not tease him. Children will be taught how and when it is safe to interact with dog and this will be constantly reinforced.. Dog nails to be regularly clipped. Children to be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them (i.e. stand still, cross arms). Dog kept on lead outside.	Remind pupils how to interact and what to do if he starts chasing them.	All teachers
Running loose	If the school dog were to run loose, he could damage property.	The school dog will be contained in one of the school offices or on a lead whilst in the building. Walks off a lead every morning around the school grounds. Stair gate refitted to the Heads door at school and college lead door at college..	Low	High	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective.  If the dog does get loose from his pen the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in its cage.	A stairgate will be placed on the office door.	



# SCHOOL DOG RISK ASSESSMENT Updated October 21

Thriftwood

IDENTIFY THE HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED & HOW?	CURRENT CONTROLS	LEVEL OF RISK	PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	ACTIONS TAKEN TO MITIGATE RISK	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Direct interaction with children / staff	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children / staff could be scratched.	No planned interaction is allowed without supervision. Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour. Rewards / praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour.	Medium	Medium whilst in puppy phase	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is effective and appropriate. Ensure staff that take Reggie are confident to deal with him if he gets excitable.		
Destruction of materials	If allowed, the school dog may chew / destroy some school materials / resources.	The school dog will be contained at all times. The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed.	Low	Medium whilst still a puppy, otherwise – Low.	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is effective and appropriate. Ensure he is on a lead or behind the stair gate.  Provide appropriate play toys for the dog.		
Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with the school dog	If a child / adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction.	There are agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation.	Medium	Medium as new pupils enter the school	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult / child will have the interaction stopped.		



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Use of rewards / treats	Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward / treat. Children / adult must clean their hands after handling treats.	There are toilets where children must wash their hands after stroking Reggie. Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation.	Low		Reminders to the children to wash hands after handling treats. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation.		
Worms/Fleas/ Immunisations	If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger than germs can be transferred to humans along with other germs.	The school dog is regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention and all immunisations kept up to date.	Low	Low if treated regularly as planned.	Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet.		
Faeces	If a child/adult comes into contact with the school dog's faeces, some germs could be transferred.	The school dog will only be walked under supervision. No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces this will always be undertaken by an adult.	Medium to high whilst a puppy.	Low to Medium	If a child finds faeces on the school field / playground they will report it to an adult.  If the dog defecates on school site, a member of staff will clear it up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner.		



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Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs, they could become unwell.	If a child has an allergy the school dog must not carry out tasks near the child	Medium	Medium	Parents to inform the school of any known allergies to dogs and to be given the choice to let their child opt out of close contact with the dog. Medical records used to list pupils identified as having an allergy and not to have contact with the dog. Children to wash hands after contact with dog.		
Contact with food preparation areas	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic.	At stair gate is placed at the entrance to the kitchen to prevent entry during food preparation.	Low	Low	Remain on a lead when moving around school		
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	If hands are not cleaned, children/adults could become unwell.	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog.	Low	Medium. Remind children and adults to clean their hands.	Due to Covid-19 a strict handwashing regime is in place throughout the school		
Walking the dog on and off site.	Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk.	No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk. Children will not accompany on walks off site unless as a designated activity.	Medium	Medium	Reggie to be supervised whilst on the playground off lead by a designated adult at all times.  Whilst in an adolescent phase Reggie to be on the playground on a lead.		



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Fire drill / alarm	Dog	Dog to be involved in practice fire alarm procedure in order to recognise alarm sound. Key staff member will be responsible for removing dog from the building in each area.	Low	Low			
Lock Down	Dog	Remain in Headteachers office.	Low	Low			
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford the ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	The dog is ultimately the responsibility of Mrs Pryke both in a well-being and financial aspect. The dog will be insured by the school.	Low	Low	As the dog may be used for 'therapy' work within the school, the school will accommodate costs towards training and assessment of the dog to meet these criteria.		
Claim is made against school about the dog.	School not adequately covered financially.	Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in the school Business Manager's office and renewed annually.	Low	Low			
Dog Phobia causing distress	Pupils / visitors	Advise visitors and remove if necessary. Notice signs in school entrance advising of dog	Low	Low	Staff to supervise dog at all times and be sensitive to all children's reactions. Parents to be offered programme of support for		



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Thriftwood

		presence and noted on school website.			child to help overcome aversion.		
Dog becoming anxious or tired.	Dog	A safe space on site to be allocated for 'quiet time'. Dog not to be disturbed when in this space. When dog is sleeping it will not be woken unless an emergency which will be prompted by key handler.	Medium	Medium			
Dog pulling on lead	Pupils / staff	Use an appropriate harness and lead.	Low	Low			
Dog's reaction to children's' behaviour. Banging doors / pulling hair.	Dog/ Pupils/ Staff	Dog becoming scared and anxious, or letting the students know he is cross	Low	Low	Educating children how to behave when dog is on school site. If this happens the dog will be removed to its 'safe' area and only reintroduced to education zone when trust has been re-established.		

**DATE IMPLEMENTED:** January 2020 Adjusted February 2020 after Reggie had been in school for half a term

**REVIEW DATE:** September 2020

January 2021

October 21