

School Dog Risk Assessment

DATE: February 2025



Introduction

Five Key Reasons for a School Dog.

1. Dogs teach children responsibility. Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a Dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction that they can't get from school or other chores. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop.
2. Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!
3. Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives.
4. Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended).
5. Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day. Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life.

St Nicholas Primary School Dog 'Dexie' lives with our SENCo, Mrs Hilling and her family. Dexie is a very caring and well behaved dog who has the right temperament to become a real asset to School. Dexie is a Cavapoo and has public liability insurance, this means she can come into school. Dexie regularly visits the vet for check-ups and is regularly wormed, groomed and in receipt of flea medication. In addition to the 5 key reasons for Dexie joining us outlined above, we also believe she will improve the children's abilities within the school and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels

<u>Task /Activity</u>	<u>Who is at risk</u>	<u>Hazard Identification</u>	<u>Current Controls</u>	<u>Hazard</u> (Potential for harm) 0 = Never 1 = Minimal 2 = Moderate 3 = Significant 4 = Extreme (all the time)	<u>Probability</u> (Likelihood of harm) 0 = Never 1 = Improbable 2 = Possible 3 = Probable 4 = Likely	<u>Level of risk</u> (Hazard x Probability = Level of risk) 0 = Never 1 = Low 6 = Medium 16 = High
Hygiene	Pupils	Pupils coming into contact with faeces	Dexie walked and toileted in demarcated area of the school grounds. Faeces removed using poop bags	3	2	4
	Pupils/staff	Contact with vomit	Staff (SH) to clean up vomit wearing gloves, using paper and disinfectant	2	3	3
	Pupils	Stroking /contact with Dexie and touching mouth or food	Pupils reminded to wash hands by staff supervising Dexie. Anti bacterial gel available in all classrooms, offices and staffroom. Establish routines and procedures for pupils to learn need for handwashing.	2	4	8
	Pupils / staff	Fleas, ticks, worms etc	See above. Dexie regularly wormed and treated for flea prevention. SH to closely monitor and Vet checks up to date and in place.	3	3	4
Jump /Scratch	Pupils / staff	Dexie over excited in play or jumping up	Dexie to be kept on lead at all times until fully trained and not jumping up Dexie interaction: Pupils taught expectations, how and when it is safe to interact with Dexie Dexie supervised by staff at all times Dexie's nails clipped regularly Dexie will not be given treats or attention until in the "sit" position to prevent jumping.	2	3	6
Bite	Pupils / staff	Child or adult could be hurt if the school Dexie bites someone	Dexie has had training not to bite. Her temperament, behaviour and mood monitored by SH and staff. SH trained in Dexie behaviour and how presented Dexie will be supervised at all times. Dexie is trained to have no mouth/teeth contact. Dexie will follow Kennel Club Bronze, Silver and Gold programme when these become available	3	3	3
Asthmatic / allergic reaction	Pupils /staff/ visitors	Allergic reaction after contact with Dexie Note: Cavapoo Breed is non – low shedding and	Choice given to 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 Dexie unless specific agreement by parent	3	3	6

		will not leave fur as dust like other shedding breeds	List to be displayed in staffroom and room where School Dog is kept. Pupils to wash hands after contact with Dexie. Dog bedding regularly washed. Visitors advised Dexie is in the building on arrival and removed if requested. All parents/carers aware Dexie is in the school			
Dog unwell	Pupils	Dexie 'cranky' / bad mood	If unwell, Dexie to not be in school, no contact with pupils. Dexie to remain in her 'safe space'	2	3	6
Dog phobia	Pupils / visitors	Distress caused by close proximity to Dexie	Advise visitors and remove if necessary. Signs in school entrance advising of Dexie presence. Staff SH to supervise Dexie at all times and be sensitive to all pupils reactions	2	2	4
Dexie becoming anxious or tired	Dexie	Dexie gets irritable	'Safe place' created for 'quiet time' planned in the day. Dexie to be trained to understand 'safe place' command	3	3	8
Running loose	Dexie / child / adult	Dexie could be hurt or could hurt a child while anxious	Dexie will remain in Mrs Hilling's office at all times. When leaving the office Dexie will be on a lead. While visiting classrooms, doors must be kept shut and a sign displaying that Dexie is in class	2	3	3