



Therapy Dog Risk Assessment

Site / Premises: St. Michael and All Angels Primary School	Assessment Carried Out By			
Activity: Therapy Dog –Mo	Name: Sara Richardson	Date Carried Out or Reviewed	Date for Next Review	Reviewed By (Name)
		01/09/2026	01/09/2027	S. Richardson
	Responsible Manager / Team Leader etc			
	Name: Sara Richardson			
	Handlers: Sara Richardson Liam Fyldes			

Risk Rating.

The Risk Rating process is provided for guidance only. It is the risk assessors' evaluation of the risks that is important, and this may differ from the result indicated by the risk rating matrix. Even after taking the risk rating into consideration employers still have a duty to ensure that sufficient and adequate control measures are in place to ensure that any remaining risks are kept as low as is reasonably practicable.

What are the Hazards? (What can go wrong)	Who might be Harmed & How ?	Existing Control Measures (What are you already doing to manage the hazards/risks?)				Additional Controls Required (Where the existing controls are insufficient to reduce the risk to an acceptable level) Use the scoring table below to assist in planning actions.	Action By Who ?	Action By When ?
Canine related diseases and parasites	Pupils/ staff Ill health	- Dog to have necessary and current vaccinations before coming into school. Vaccinations and other medical treatment is the responsibility of the owner - Dog to have regular veterinary checks - Dog will be kept free of fleas, ticks - Dog to be bathed regularly - Dog lives with owner/handler when not in school and only visits on agreed days				All aspects of Mo's care are the responsibility of his owner/handler. Mo is covered by the school's public liability insurance certificate whilst in school. He also has his own pet insurance.	SR	Ongoing
Dog excrement and urine	Ill-health, slips and falls	- Dog to be wormed on a regular basis - Any excrement, or urine (on the rare occasion this may happen indoors) will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by				Additionally, when Mo is out on a walk, the member of staff walking Mo, has poo bags to take with them and it is that person's responsibility to ensure the excrement is double bagged &	SR	Ongoing

		the owner or at the time of the incident. The immediate area will be sprayed with disinfectant spray, which the school will supply.				disposed of responsibly & hygienically in the agreed refuse bin.		
Hygiene/ Infection	Ill-health	• Adequate provision for hand-washing • Following contact with the dog, children will be advised not to touch any part of their face or mouth with their hands before hands are thoroughly washed • Children will be reminded to wash their hands after spending time with the dog or to use the hand sanitiser around school for this purpose. • All wounds on exposed skin are suitably covered						
Walks in the school grounds		When outside in the school grounds on his walks during the day, the dog will be on lead where there are multiple classes outside in an area. Where there are fewer children outside, the dog can be off lead. He is very focused on his ball and chasing it when outside and to ensure he has exercise to get him relaxed and calm for sessions with the children.						
Bites, cuts and scratches	Ill-health	There will be no unsupervised contact with children. Dog closely supervised, kept under control and on a lead at all times during school day hours when moving within the school building between 7:50am – 4:15pm. The owner will have hold of the lead at all times when walking in the school building during core hours (see above). A child may hold the lead within school grounds. Pupils and staff will be made aware of the procedures of meeting and handling the dog: • Always remain calm around the dog • Don't make sudden movements • Don't stare into a dog's eyes as this could be interpreted as a threat • Always approach the dog standing up • Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping or eating				Mo is a Labrador Retriever – he is very loving and extremely calm. He lives at home with an autistic boy who is prone to meltdowns and screaming so it used to this behaviour. Mo has been assessed for temperament through as assessor. He last passed his initial assessment in September 2024 and this will be re-assessed each year.	SR	Ongoing

		Don't eat close to the dog and never feed the dog your food or other food/treats without permission Dog First aid kit held in handler's office. The owner will ensure the dog is not abused or over petted to avoid any incidents. If the dog appears anxious or over-stimulated, he will be removed to a different environment, or the visiting session may be cut short. Children made aware and encouraged to follow the procedures and etiquette on meeting and handling a dog. Children and dog will always be under close adult supervision.						
Potential trip hazard	Staff fall / knocked down	Dog closely supervised, kept under control and on a lead at all times during school day hours when moving within the school building between 7:50am – 4:15pm. At the beginning of a school day when the school dog and owner arrive on site (when there are few adults on site, Mo will be allowed to walk through school to the headteacher office or nurture room under the control of his owner. If there are workpeople on site, unknown people in the school, or members of staff in early who are nervous around dogs and on the route to the office, we will let people know Mo is in the building. At the end of a school day (after 4:15pm when staff who are nervous around dogs have left the building for the day) Mo will be allowed to walk through school on the lead to the exit, under the control of his owner.				Mo is calm as soon as he enters the building.	SR	Ongoing
Phobias	Stress/ anxiety	- Staff who are anxious or have a phobia about dogs must let the school know asap. This information will be kept on file as are the children with allergies or a fear of dogs. - Where a member of staff has a fear/phobia of dogs, there will be communication around movement in school (where possible) so it is clear when Mo will be moving around within the school building. Part of the therapy dog's work is also to						

		work with children who may be scared/afraid of dogs. • Immediate removal from situations causing stress to the dog, staff or adults – this may be the member of staff or child removing themselves from the situation, dependent on the situation. • Students, staff and visitors known to be fearful/ phobic or for any other reasons will not be working directly with the dog. Reasonable measures have been put into place to warn people if the dog is in/ passing through a communal area. Staff/ children will then have the opportunity to move away. • Signs about whether the dog is in school are on the door of the main school office.						
Allergic reaction to dog	Ill-health	• All parents/carers & members of the school community will be informed via the website, prospectus, newsletters and letter home that there will be a dog on site and asked to inform the school if they or their child has an allergy to dogs or severe fear of dogs • Parents/carers of children chosen to regularly work with the dog will be contacted individually. • Owner has a dog bed for each session for the dog to lay on in the office/nurture room • Areas where dog visits will be kept well ventilated • Dog first aid kit held in handler's office • Pupils known to be allergic to dogs will not be allowed access to the dog • Those thought to be highly allergic to dogs will have a statement included in their care plan/teachers & school office to be made aware of this information • Visitors to the school will be informed on arrival that there is a dog on the premises via the sign on the main office door • Lint rollers available in the handler's office to remove any dog hair for other children's allergy purposes.				Labrador with short coat. All allergy information will be collected before the dog is working with any children. A relevant file will be kept in the school office. Letter sent annually to parents regarding fear of dogs or allergies, children starting in-year to have the letter as part of the admissions process	SR	Ongoing
Noise, barking	Anxiety	The dog is sociable & will not be left with children unsupervised at any time.				Any issues to be reported immediately to SLT.	All	Ongoing

		If problems occur, dog will be removed from the situation/school by the owner.						
Fire drill and evacuation	Dog left in the building in an emergency	The owner will be responsible for safely leading the dog from the building to a place of safety, this will always be on lead. Wherever possible, when the owner is not present to do this, <u>the dog's harness must be on</u> to evacuate as this is the best way to keep him safe in a challenging situation. If a fire evacuation happens when owner is teaching or not with the dog, she will get back to the dog asap or deputise for the day to someone who is able to evacuate the dog safely in him absence.				Harness to be taken out with the dog on the lead and put on as quickly as possible once evacuated for him safety (if there is not time to do so prior to evacuation).	SR / Deputised person	Ongoing