Assessment Reference:	STPHS RA	**Location:**	St Philip's Catholic Primary School
Subject of Assessment:	School Nurture Dog	**Date of Assessment:**	4th November 2026
Names of Assessors:	Natalie Holland	**Signature of Managers Acceptance:**	

	LIKELIHOOD OF HARM (How bad it could be)		SEVERITY OF HAZARD (The chance it may occur)			SEVERITY				
						1	2	3	4	5
5	Fatality	**5**	Almost certain	LIKLIEHOOD	1	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
4	Major injury, resulting in disability	**4**	Probable		2	**2**	**4**	**6**	**8**	**10**
3	Injury requires doctor's or hospital attendance	**3**	Possible		3	**3**	**6**	**9**	**12**	**15**
2	Minor injury, 1st aid required	**2**	Possible (under unfortunate circumstances)		4	**4**	**8**	**12**	**16**	**20**
1	Minor Injury, no 1st aid required	**1**	Rare		5	**5**	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**

Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = TOTAL RISK RATING

Total Risk Rating	Priority of Action	Total Risk Rating	Priority of Action
Below 6	No immediate action necessary, but keep under review.	1-6	Action within 12 months
7-14	Action within 9 months	7-14	Action within 6 months
15-25	Action within next 3 months	15-25	Action within next month

15-25 Immediate action / possible prohibition of use - Action within next month

Who is at risk:	Employees ✓	Pupils ✓	Pregnant Women ✓	Inexperienced Person ✓	Contractors ✓	Visitors / Other ✓

Injections and date received: **All injections upto date. Records and certificates signed off by Buchanan vets**	**Undertaken by which vets:** **Buchanan vets Timperley**	**Medical conditions:** **Low level allergies- has sensitive skin and stomach food. Arlo is hypo allergenic but may cause some irritation for extremely sensitive allergies. Parents have been sent an opt out form.**
Training received: **Nurture dog trained by specialist trainer. 14 sessions focusing on staying calm with noise, stress, interacting with children, following and responding to commands.**	**Insurance policy/ company and overview of cover:** **Fully insured with a pet plan for continuous top up treatment for flee and worming tablets.**	

Describe the task being performed:

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.
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.
Off-site the dog will be cared for by three named members of staff: Mrs Church, Miss Godridge, Mrs Holland

Hazards

1	Slips, trips and falls		6	Lighting	
2	Falls from height		7	Temp/Humidity	
3	Electricity		8	Access and egress	
4	Manual Handling/ Ergonomic	✓	9	Substances	
5	Noise		10	Traffic	

Hazards continued

11	Hot and cold surfaces		16	Drawing in	
12	Stress	✓	17	Cutting	
13	Violence		18	Friction Abrasion	
14	Work equipment		19	Ejection of materials	
15	Entanglement		20	Other	✓

What are the hazards and Why?	Who Might be harmed and why	Current control measures	Risk rating	Additional control measures required?	Action by who and when	Date completed	Residual risk
Dog biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if the dog bites	The dog has so far been successfully providing nurture therapy at several Trust schools for over 2 years. No incidents of the dog being aggressive have ever been noted. The dog has been through an 8 week training course with Keith Davies Dog Training. Continued reinforcement of the dogs behaviour by staff	6	Dog will be supervised at all times and adults will continually assess the dogs temperament and stress levels.	SLT/Learning Mentor	On going	4
Jumping up/scratching	Pupils, staff, visitors	The dog has received a full training regime to support these types of behaviours. A	4	New pupils to the school need to have the parents confirmation letter for	SLT		4

		letter will be sent home asking parents to sign and return the form if they were unwilling for their child to have contact with the dog. Parents asked to explain their wishes to their child not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact. Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. The dog will be in an enclosed area when people come into contact with him or under lead control by the authorised adultchild and ask them		interacting with the school dog			
Running loose	If the dog was to run loose he could hurt children/adults or damage property	The dog spends most of its indoor time in the SENDCO office and rainbow room with designated staff. The dog is taken outside on a lead and can be unleashed within the enclosed playground at set times.	2	.		Ongoing	2
Direct interaction with children/ staff	If the dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ staff could be scratched	No interaction is allowed without authorisation. Interaction will be cancelled if the dog shows signs of	4			Ongoing	4

		incorrect behaviour. Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour. All contact with the school dog and pupils carried out in the presence of nominated adults. All procedures are in place					
Destruction of materials	If allowed the dog may chew/destruct some school materials/resources	The dog is contained and accompanied at all times when indoors. The dog has its own toys to play with and normal school are not used with the dog	2			Ongoing	2
Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with dog	If a child/adult interact with the dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction	Agreed guidelines are followed at all times when interacting with the dog. There is not any interaction with the dog without authorisation	4			Ongoing	4
Use of rewards/treats	Children and adults could be harmed if the dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat.	Treats will only be given to the dog with authorisation. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats. Hand sanitising gel is available.	4			Ongoing	4

Health of the dog	If the dog is not kept healthy there is a likelihood that either the dog or staff/pupils (or both) could become unwell.	The dog is registered with a vet practice and is up to date with his inoculations	3	Yearly health checks with the vet	Abbie Burns	Ongoing	3
Faeces	If a child/adult come into contact with the dog's faeces some germs could be transferred	The dog is only walked under supervision. No child is asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision. The dog's compound is regularly checked by the site team to ensure the area is kept free from faeces. Sufficient faeces bags are available	4			Ongoing	4
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	Letter has been sent to parents informing them of the presence of the dog on school grounds and to indicate whether or not they wish their child to come into contact with the dog	3	Again ensure that any new pupils are informed about the school dog and parental consent given	SLT	Ongoing	3
Children's access to dog's resources	If a child has access to the dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell	All of the dog's resources are locked away. No pupil allowed to enter the dog's compound without supervision	4	Continue to remind staff and pupils	SLT	Ongoing	4
Contact with food preparation	If the dog enters a food preparation area this could	The dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all	2			Ongoing	2

areas	be unhygienic	times around school. He will never enter the main school kitchen					
Walking the dog around the site	Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the dog is walking around the site	No children will take the lead when the dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult. If pupils or the dog become boisterous then the dog is taken back inside	4			Ongoing	4
Visits to classroom	If the dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure he may become over excited which may lead to injury	Consideration will be given to when the dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the nominated member of staff	4			Ongoing	4
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when the dog is eating he may respond aggressively	No pupil is allowed to interact with the dog when it is being fed.	2			Ongoing	2
School events	If the dog is overwhelmed he may become aggressive or boisterous	The dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be on a lead at all times with a supervising adult. The dog's reaction to school events is monitored and if the school events are too overwhelming the school dog will not attend	4			Ongoing	4
Other dogs	The dog may become excitable or aggressive when	No other dogs is allowed on school premises (other	2			Ongoing	2

	coming into contact with other dogs	than guide dogs). Dog is monitored when being walked outside school grounds by its carer when coming into contact with other dogs					

Date Review No. 1 4.11.26	Date Review No. 2	Date Review No. 3	Date Review No. 4	Date Review No. 5
By: Natalie Holland	By:	By:	By:	By: