

# Broadway East First School

## School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

Benefits of a school dog

Risks and actions taken to reduce risk



### What are the benefits of a school dog?

Having a dog in school is known to:

- Have a calming effect on children
- Encourage expression and participation in children who are sometimes withdrawn, shy or 'under the radar'
- Foster a sense of responsibility and care
- Improve behaviour, attendance and concentration
- Reduce stress and improve self- esteem therefore contributing to readiness for learning
- Motivating pupils to think and to learn, as most children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of animals
- Reduce fear of dogs in the community and increase confidence in how to approach dogs
- Encourage respect and improve pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teachers
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life
- Help children to build confidence in reading

## Risk Assessment

Risk	Level of risk LMH	Who is at risk?	Measures taken to manage risk	Further action taken or to be taken (dated)
<p><b>Allergies</b></p> <p>Some children and adults have allergies to dogs</p>	L	All	<p>Maggie is a Spanish Water Dog. The breed is known to have very low allergy risk. She does not moult hair/fur. Permission will be sought from parents and carers and we have allergy information and medication in school where appropriate.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after they have touched the dog.</p>	
<p><b>Bites</b></p> <p>Dogs can bite people when they are distressed, threatened or frustrated.</p>	L	All	<p>Maggie has been owned since being a puppy and therefore her full history is known. She has never shown any aggression in the past and is known to be very tolerant and relaxed around people. The breed is known to be unlikely to be aggressive.</p> <p>All children will be trained in how to behave around the dog and how to approach the dog.</p> <p>The dog has completed several training classes and will continue up to Kennel Club Good Citizen level.</p>	

<p><b>Scratches</b></p> <p>Dogs can scratch with their claws when playing and interacting with people.</p>	L/M	All	<p>Maggie's claws will be regularly clipped so that they are not long.</p> <p>She is being trained to greet people without jumping up.</p>	
<p><b>Other dogs on site</b></p> <p>Presence of other dogs on site could cause Maggie to become distressed, anxious or over excited.</p>	Very L	All	<p>Dogs are only allowed on site with permission from the HT so that risk assessments can be prepared prior to the visit.</p> <p>When dogs visit, Maggie will be kept close to a member of staff so that she can be placed in her crate if her behaviour becomes unpredictable.</p>	
<p><b>Dog Faeces and Urine</b></p> <p>Faeces can carry risk of infection to adults and children.</p>	M	All	<p>Maggie is trained to do all of her business outside. Maggie will be encouraged to toilet on the way into school (off site) when possible, or in the staff parking area. All faeces will be picked up safely and placed in a poo bag by an adult and put in the outside bin where there is no public access (large industrial bins behind the caretaker's house).</p> <p>If the faeces leaves mess behind then this will be cleaned off with hot soapy water.</p> <p>When the dog is unwell, she will not come into school.</p> <p>Her diet results in firm faeces which are usually very easy to remove from the ground.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after they touch the dog.</p>	
<p><b>Fleas and worms</b></p>	L	All	<p>The dog will have regular treatment as determined by the vet (Pets First, Heaton) and</p>	

<p>If the dog has worms, these could be transmitted to people</p> <p>Fleas can infest furniture and carpets and cause bites to humans</p>			<p>therefore is highly unlikely to contract either. If there is any indication that the dog has either worms or fleas she will be kept away from school until cleared by the vet.</p> <p>Where children have lowered immune systems, parents will always be consulted before contact.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after they touch the dog.</p>	
<p><b>Causing anxiety for some children, visitors and staff</b></p> <p>Some children and adults are anxious about dogs and have developed fear due to their cultural experiences or a negative experience with animals.</p>	M	Some	<p>Being around a dog is more likely to induce a sense of well-being than anxiety but some people could become anxious if they are fearful of dogs. Maggie will always be on her lead in school and nobody will be put in a position where they have to have contact with her. All children will be educated regarding how dogs behave and we hope that by having a dog around, children will overcome any fears that they may have.</p> <p>There is a secure cage/crate in the HT office where the dog can have rest time and visitors/staff/children will know that she is unable to 'escape'.</p> <p>The Dogs Trust will visit school in Autumn 2018 to talk to children about safety around dogs (how to approach dogs etc)</p>	
<p><b>Bumps, knocks, trip hazard</b></p> <p>If the dog is moving around the building, she could cause someone to trip or fall. She could also accidentally knock over younger/smaller children in school.</p>	L	All	<p>Maggie will always be on the lead in school land will never be allowed to run loose in the building or the grounds.</p> <p>Staff who are supervising the dog will ensure that she is under control and sitting or lying out of the way of doors.</p>	

<p><b>Being Pulled over when holding the lead</b></p> <p>If children are holding the lead and the dog gets excited, she could pull them over, causing injury.</p>	L	Children	<p>Children will always be supervised by an adult if they are holding the lead. Adults will judge when they need to take control of the lead from a child. Only children who are confident in handling the dog will be allowed to hold the lead independently, but still under supervision.</p>	
<p><b>Aggression when being fed</b></p> <p>Dogs are often territorial about their food and can become aggressive.</p>	L	All	<p>Maggie has not shown any aggression when feeding and will happily let people take her food away, add to her bowl or stroke her. If this changes then she will eat in an area where children are not allowed access.</p>	
<p><b>Access to dog toys, equipment and food/treats</b></p> <p>Dog toys and equipment are not designed for children and could cause injury (eg nips from the lead attachment)</p> <p>Dog treats could cause an allergic reaction if ingested by children (although are fit for human consumption).</p>	L	Children	<p>Adults will supervise children when handling dog equipment and treats. Children will wash their hands after handling treats.</p>	