

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

Legend	
I	Impact (consequence)
L	Likelihood
I x L	Risk Rating

To establish your risk rating, it is necessary to multiply the perceived consequence (or impact) of the risk (score 1 - 5) with the perceived likelihood (or probability) of that risk occurring (score 1-5). Please see tables below for guidance on risk rating scores.

Impact (consequence)	
Description	Indicators
5 (Major)	The risk has a major impact if realised
4 (Significant)	The risk has a significant impact if realised
3 (Moderate)	The risk has a moderate impact if realised
2 (Minor)	The risk has a minor impact if realised
1 (No consequence)	The risk has no consequence impact if realised

Likelihood (Probability)	
Description	Indicators
5 (Very likely)	The risk will emerge
4 (Likely)	The risk should emerge
3 (Unlikely)	The risk could emerge
2 (Very unlikely)	The risk is unlikely to emerge
1 (Impossible)	The risk will not emerge

Score	Risk description	Action required
25	Extreme Risk	Immediate escalation to Headteacher for risk control activities
20-15	High Risk	Risk to be actively managed with appropriate risk control activities
12-6	Medium Risk	Take appropriate action to manage risk
5 and below	Low Risk	Risk to be removed from register with monitoring activity to assess changes in risk rating

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

Learning Outcomes:

- 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 wellbeing of children and lower anxiety.
- The school dog will aim to make the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

Permissions:

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it may have positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the dogs is invited to inform the school.

Review:

The risk assessment is reviewed annually.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Ms Birmingham – Assistant Head teacher – Owner of dog

Mrs Sarah Butt – Pastoral Support – dog handler and interventions

Dog Status and Context:

- The dogs live with Ms Birmingham and her family. His vaccination programme records will be kept up to date.
- Whilst moving around the school, the dog will be kept on a short lead and will always be with a member of staff.

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

Risk description	Risk Control(s)	I	L	Risk Rating (after risk controls are in place)	Lead for Risk Control Activities
Policy and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The headteacher ensures that all staff, pupils and their parents, are aware of the use of school dogs at St John's Middle. The School Business/Finance Manager ensures that the school's insurance covers using the dog for the specific planned use for therapy and SEMH provision for pupils. The headteacher ensures that the dog is cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The headteacher ensures that there is a suitable and enough risk assessment in place 	2	2	L	Headteacher Designated Dog Handler Trust H&S Officer
Dogs welfare provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog has access to fresh, clean water at all times. The dog has access to a cool and quiet place where it can be left undisturbed. Pupils leave the dog alone when instructed by their teachers. The dog's welfare is considered as a priority when planning the activities that it will participate in. If an activity risks the dog's welfare, the activity is amended. Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in The assistant headteacher and dog handler ensure that the dog has adequate and frequent toilet breaks and any waste is appropriately disposed of. The dog is not over-stimulated, as this can lead to potentially dangerous behaviour. The dog is not made to participate in potentially distressing activities. The school complies with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The dog is familiar with the members of staff and pupils who are participating in the activity with the dog. 	3	2	M	Headteacher Assistant Headteacher Designated Dog Handler

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flash photography is not used when the dog is present. The dog is given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area. The Assistant headteacher ensures that the dog is fit to participate in specific activities and is not brought into the school if it is unwell. If the dog becomes unwell while at school, the dog's owner takes it home. Before any activity is carried out, Assistant headteacher ensures everyone participating in the activity understands how to treat and behave around the dog, e.g. not shouting or clapping and not running around. Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dog. 				
Site security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two adults are appointed to be responsible for the dog. The site team ensures that the site is secure and that precautions are in place to limit the chance of the dog getting loose. The site team ensures that the premises is secure, e.g. fences are not broken. 	2	2	L	Headteacher Designated Dog Handler Caretaker
Evacuation procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary, the school's evacuation procedures include provisions for the dog. The person handling the dog during specified activities is responsible for the dog's safety during a lockdown or evacuation. 	2	1	L	Headteacher Designated Dog Handler
Disobedience, over excitement or dangerous behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The handler is equipped to react to and control any dangerous behaviour. If the person handling the dog for a specific activity is a pupil, they are given training to handle the dog, and the pupil and dog are given an opportunity to bond. Pupils are not expected to handle the dog unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They feel safe and confident in doing so. They have received training to handle the dog. The dog's obedience is ensured as far as reasonably possible; however, staff, 	3	2	M	Headteacher Deputy Headteacher Designated Dog Handler Trust Health and Safety

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

	<p>pupils, visitors and parents understand that animals can be unpredictable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assistant headteacher and dog handler ensures that a plan is in place for if the dog is unable to carry out an activity, e.g. if the dog is stressed, and participating in the activity would cause further distress or could lead to dangerous behaviour. • If the dog is not behaving appropriately during an activity, e.g. it is barking excessively or running away, the dog is removed and a contingency plan is implemented. • Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. • Pupils are taught the impact of their actions in relation to life and in the case of the dog. • Pupils will be taught to stand still with their arms crossed to prevent the dog from chasing them or engaging in boisterous play. • The Assistant headteacher and dog handler ensure that the dog doesn't interfere with the school environment or displays nuisance behaviours. If necessary, they may exclude the dog from entering specific areas. • The Assistant headteacher and dog handler discourage the dog from jumping, scratching or licking and are confident that the dog will respond to instruction of this nature. • Should an injury to a child occur they will be assessed by a trained First Aider. They will administer appropriate medical treatment and advise the parents/carers as to whether tetanus inoculation is appropriate. • Should an injury occur the incident will be fully investigated by the Trust Health and Safety Officer. If appropriate, additional control measures will be put in place 					Officer
Parent notification/permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are informed that the dog will be present on the school's premises. • Parents are informed of the activities that the dog will be participating in, e.g. the dog will be used as for pet therapy. 	2	2	L		Headteacher

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

Dogs health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog's designated handler oversees feeding and caring for the dog while on the school premises. • The handler is responsible for permitting people to touch the dog. • The dog is permitted to go in the office areas which are kept clean and secure for the wellbeing of the animal, pupils, staff and visitors. • The dog is given no opportunity to come into contact with wild rodents on or off the school premises. • The dog is fully inoculated. • The dog goes to the vet for a regular check-up, to identify whether the dog has any transmittable diseases and for worming or flea treatment. • The dog's claws are regularly trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches. • On hot days, the handler ensures there are appropriate provisions in place to keep the dog cool and ensure the dog avoids too much activity during the hottest part of the day. • The dog owner have financial responsibility regarding feeding the dog and any day to day costs. 	2	2	L	<p>Headteacher</p> <p>Deputy Headteacher</p> <p>Designated Dog Handler</p>
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog is suitably toilet trained. • The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard, ie. not wet or muddy • All faeces are immediately picked up by the handler. • The handler immediately washes their hands with sufficient soap and water after picking up faeces. • Any soiled dog bedding is immediately disposed of. • The handler takes the dog's bedding home regularly to wash it. • Any pupils, staff and visitors who touch the dog are advised to wash their hands afterwards, and sufficient hand washing facilities are provided throughout the school. • Anyone with an exposed wound who touches the dog has the wound suitably covered. 	2	2	L	<p>Headteacher</p> <p>Designated Dog Handler</p>

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the dog is ill with an infection or a disease, it does not return to the school until it has recovered. Hand sanitiser is provided for anyone who touches the dog. 				
Injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog is well trained and is used to coming into close contact with people. Pupils, staff and visitors around the dog are closely supervised by the handler. Pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to put their face close to the dog. The dog is prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. Pupils, staff and visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog during allocated timeslots. The dog is provided with a place it can go to get away from people. 	3	2	M	Designated Dog Handler
Dogs housing and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner ensures that the dog has housing that meets its physical and psychological needs. The children are taught that this place belongs to the dog and is their 'safe' place so do not attempt to invade it. The owner ensures that the dog's housing is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure, e.g. escape proof. Clean and free from parasites and vermin. Free from hazards, e.g. sharp edges. Well-ventilated. Sheltered from extreme weather. Set at a suitable temperature, humidity and light level. Sheltered from noises that may upset it. Capable of providing a darkened sleeping area. The owner ensures that the dog's housing has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comfortable resting area. A suitable amount of clean bedding material. The headteacher and assitant headteacher ensures that the dog is able to: 	2	2	L	Headteacher Deputy Headteacher Designated Dog Handler

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lie fully stretched out. - Turn around without touching either the walls or the ceiling. - Stand in its natural posture. - Move in its natural manner. - Rest comfortably. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dog's bedding/housing is checked for defects on a weekly basis by the assistant headteacher. • All dog equipment is stored in the designated office areas when not in use. • The dog's food and water bowls are kept out of the path of people to avoid any trips. • Any spillages from the dog's bowls are wiped up immediately. 				
Allergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and staff known to have allergies to animals have restricted access to the dog. • All pupils, staff and visitors are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog. • All pupils, staff and visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog. 	2	2	L	Headteacher Duty Headteacher
Phobias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and staff known to have a phobia of dogs are given restricted access to the dog. • In the above case the dogs are prohibited from roaming freely around the school without the supervision of the handler. • If necessary, during busy times, such as breaks, the dog is kept in a safe and secure area away from any commotion. 	2	2	L	Designated Dog Handler
Coronavirus (COVID-19)					
Awareness of policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner considers whether it is safe to resume therapy visits or sessions and postpones them where necessary, e.g. if the dog or their handler is unwell. 	2	2	L	Headteacher Deputy Headteacher

St John's Middle School Academy –School Dog Risk Assessment

					All Staff
--	--	--	--	--	-----------

RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT (to be completed by assessor)

School Dog Risk Assessment	Reference No:	100
St John's Middle School	Lead Assessor's Name & signature	Phil Berry
Alison Elwell - Head of School	AUTHORISING HEAD'S SIGNATURE	
Overall Risk Rating = Low	Risk Assessment Date	06/04/2024
	Review Date	05/04/2025