



Appendix 3 Risk Assessment for Dogs as Therapy

School/Service	St Anne's School, Alderney	Period covered	From date of assessment
Date of Assessment	13 March, 2022	Completed by	Kim Smith
Educational objectives and generic benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and wellbeing; • Encouraging reluctant readers; • Encouraging positive behaviour. 		

General assumptions

- The Headteacher has approved the use of a therapy dog with learners and will authorise a completed risk assessment (along with observing all other requirements set out in the 'Dogs as Therapy in Schools' policy) for interventions;
- Informed parent/carer consent will be in place (on at least an 'opt-out' basis)

Hazard	Who might be harmed	Control measures in place	Further action required to control risk
Travel to venue	Pupils or staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips and visit risk assessment to be completed on EVOLVE. 	As recommended through EVOLVE process in line with policy for off-site visits.
Movement of the dog in out-of-school space	Potentially identified learners and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners informed about how to greet a dog. • Dog kept on a lead when working with pupils indoors and out as per policy. 	Handler to supervise all dog contact and take appropriate action if required, e.g. removal of the dog from the area to identified safe space.
Learners' behaviour	Learners, dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero tolerance of anyone who attempts to hurt or provoke the dog in any way. Learners likely to be removed from the situation should this occur. • Learners will be taught how to greet and approach the dog. 	Staff will proactively look for any sign of deteriorating behaviour. Handler will supervise all dog contact and take appropriate action if required, e.g. removal of dog from area to a designated safe place.



Dog's behaviour	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only appropriately trained/assessed dogs will be allowed to work with pupils.• Dog treats will be used to reward and reinforce good behaviour.	Responsible person (the Handler) to monitor for changes in the dog's behaviour and take appropriate action if required, e.g. removal of dog from area to designated area.
Hygiene issues from dogs	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only appropriately vaccinated, wormed, flea protected and groomed dogs will work with learners.• Learners to thoroughly wash hands with soap/water or use sanitiser after touching a dog.	Responsible person (the Handler) to supervise all dog contact and ensure that learners wash their hands.
Toilet hygiene	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only appropriately toilet trained dogs will be allowed to work with learners.• The dog will be encouraged to toilet before/after sessions.• Faeces will be picked up and disposed of appropriately.	All necessary resources will be carried by the Handler for any eventuality of the dog needing to toilet.
Damage to buildings, e.g. fixtures, fittings, etc. by chewing or scratching	External building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The dog will be supervised by the Handler at all times, and unable to cause damage.	Should anything out of the ordinary occur the damage or otherwise will be reported through to the Headteacher with immediate effect.
Fear of a dog harming a child or young person Animal bites, scratches, animal parasites or injuries	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The dog should be under the control of a Handler at all times.• Learner behaviour monitored at all times.• Dog vaccinations, worming and flea treatment must be kept up to date in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate treatment sought.• First Aid kit available.• Parents/carers informed.• Accident or near-miss recorded appropriately



		accordance with the Policy, and record of those vaccinations kept and available for viewing.	using the Accident Book online (EVOLVE).
Allergies to dogs	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those with known allergies to be highlighted and necessary precautions taken to minimise the risk of allergy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To discuss management of allergies/potential allergies with the School Nursing Service, if required.• To discuss with parents/carers and agree precautions/ actions in advance to those known to suffer allergies in relation to dogs.
Well-being of the dog	Dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Handler to look for signs in the dog.• Action to be taken in respect of any negative contact with the dog, such as taking to the vets, if necessary.• Water to be made available to the dog at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All incidents noted and passed onto the Headteacher for consideration and/or any further action by way of support.• For every one hour of interaction, the dog is to be given 10 minutes rest.• Opportunity for toileting to be provided to the dog every three hours.

End. 13.03.2022

Risk Assessment completed by dog Handlers: Ms Smith / Mr Moore

Quality Assured by Headteacher: Mr Winward