

 Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL		Risk Assessment of (task/ area) School Dog Mentor - Cookie			Date: September 2025 Review date: January 2025	
Carried out by: Mr J. Newton		Service Area: Schools		Location: Lightmoor Village Primary		
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are we already doing?	What further action is necessary?	By whom?	By when?	Done
Dog getting over-excited when interacting with children, leading to scratches or bites.	Pupils, staff. The dog could scratch or bite, or a person could be pushed or tripped over.	- The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises unsupervised. - When not in an allocated 'free zone' (DHT's office, within the gated area, for example), the dog will remain in her harness and on a short lead. - Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. - The dog has received training already and achieved 'good citizenship' award, which involved training around 'hold' and calming techniques. - Pupils will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will continually be given to children in whole school assembly, specific workshops from outside professionals, including the Blue Cross / Dog	- Maintain ongoing training. - Ensure dog's induction includes 'desensitising' opportunities before any direct work with pupils or staff.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	

		Trust, in class time and PSHE lessons. • Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies – ‘standing tall like a tree’). • The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure her claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed. • There will be clearly defined expectations for all staff to uphold. • All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas.				
Injury caused whilst walking the dog within the school grounds.	A child or adult could be pulled/knocked to the ground. A child or adult could be scratched or bitten.	• A responsible and confident adult will always supervise dog-walking activities and maintain control of the dog. • The dog will always walk in a harness with a short lead. • Children, in small groups or no larger than six, may walk the school dog with a member of staff. • Children will be reminded about safe dog-handling principles. • The adult will ensure the children walk in-line with or behind the dog. • The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will	• Maintain ongoing training. • Ensure dog’s induction includes familiarisation with the local grounds. • Ensure children’s induction includes safe dog handling techniques.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	

		remind children of the importance of washing hands on return to school. - Children will be given the choice if they would like to stroke the school dog and or feed the dog a treat and are shown how to do this safely with a flat hand. They will be reminded on return to school to wash their hands. - All members of school community to be vigilant to look where they are walking to avoid tripping over the dog.				
Injury caused by tripping over the dog.	Staff and pupils could be injured as a result of a trip or fall.	- When the dog is not engaged in direct work and supervised by a handler, she will remain confined in a 'free' area, off-lead. This will be a designated area with gated access and clear signage not to enter until the handler has gotten the dog on-lead. - The 'free' area will be of suitable size for the dog and access to food, water, stimulation and a bed will always be provided. - The dog will not be permitted to roam in an any area that is not designated.	The designated 'free' areas need to be set-up prior to the dog commencing induction.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	
Injury caused as a result of the dog inadvertently getting free from the 'free' area or her harness and lead.	A child or adult could be pulled/knocked to the ground. A child or adult could be scratched or bitten.	The dog's legal owner shall maintain responsibility for the dog's whereabouts at all times, unless this is temporarily	Identify additional adults to deputise as handlers and	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term	

		designated to a suitably confident and skilled adult, who is aware of their responsibilities. • In the event that the dog gets loose, the handler will maintain sight of the dog, verbally discourage staff or pupils from approaching or calling and will engage in recall (calling the dog by name, using treats). • The dog has completed initial training which included recall training. The dog has good recall, which is evident in off-lead walking outside of school).	ensure they are clear on expectations. • Ensure that staff and pupil induction includes 'what to do if...' scenarios.		2025	
Illness caused as a result of allergy or lack of handwashing after handling.	A child or adult could have an allergic reaction to contact with the dog. A child or adult could become ill as a result of not handwashing, following handling.	• Parents and carers will be informed of the dog's induction and role within school. Known allergies will be identified and control measures to limit or remove contact will be enacted. • No child will be forced to interact with or handle the dog. If a child feels unhappy or unwell after contact with the dog, first aid procedures will apply. • Handwashing after any direct contact with the dog will be overseen by an adult.	• Parents will be fully informed and feedback sought. • Known allergies will be highlighted to handlers. • Handwashing facilities in all classrooms will be maintained.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	
Upset caused by fear or phobia of dogs.	A child or adult could experience upset as a result of an existing or new phobia.	• No child will be forced to interact with or handle the dog. If a child feels unhappy or unwell after contact with the dog, first aid procedures will apply. • Parent feedback will identify any	• Parents will be fully informed and feedback sought. • Known phobias will be highlighted to	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	

		known emotional concerns. A graduated, slow introduction could be supported for children who experience phobia if they are consenting.	handlers.			
Damage to school property.	There could be material damage to the school building or property, caused by the dog through scratching, biting, digging, urinating/defecating etc.	- The dog is a mature dog with no specific history of scratching, chewing or digging. The dog's handler will provide stimulation when not directly engaging the dog and she will be confined to a designated area. - The handler will encourage the dog to urinate and defecate in a designated, outdoor space within the school grounds that is away from spaces used by children or staff. Any dog poo will be removed and disposed of in external bins immediately. - The dog will never access areas where food is being prepared or served.	- Ensure designated toileting area is identified and a supply of poo bags is in place. - The 'free' zones will be established with gated access to ensure no free roaming.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	
Claims made against the school.	The school could experience financial penalty as a result of upheld claims being made against it, resulting from accident or injury caused by the dog.	- Appropriate and adequate insurance will be in place and maintained. - A thorough and robust risk assessment and induction for all school users will reduce the risk of incident.	- Maintain training and application of risk assessment. - SBM will ensure insurance is maintained.	Led by J. Newton, legal owner	Induction complete Autumn Term 2025	

More information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/