

School Dog - Risk Assessment

Site / school name:

The Limes Primary Academy

Name(s) of person(s) covered by this assessment:

- Students
- Staff
- Visitors

Background to this risk assessment:

The leadership of The Limes Primary Academy considered the options regarding the possibility of obtaining a dog as a school pet in September 2018. Over a period of several months following this discussion, research into a possible source of a suitable dog led to the final decision to introduce a puppy from a known source – Bramble , a Cockerpoo who is owned by the Headteacher, Mrs Kate Cracknell. The rationale to have a School Dog was as follows:

1. For the academy to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow and be trained from a puppy to be suited to a school environment.
2. For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day.
3. To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children’s social and emotional development, as well as academic.

Bramble lives with Mrs Cracknell in her home at her own expense and is to be introduced to the school environment and the children gradually. A Vets’ practice local to Mrs Cracknell’s home thoroughly checks Bramble for any illnesses and is responsible for her vaccination programme. There are no diseases that could be caught from Bramble as she is kept up to date with immunisations including rabies and her worming treatment is in line with European vet guidelines. A register of her annual health check is kept both by Mrs Cracknell and the vets’ surgery. It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not wish their child to interact with the dog is invited to inform Mrs. Cracknell of their wishes. This risk assessment will be reviewed at least annually and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by the school senior leadership team.

Until Autumn 2020, Bramble will not have direct contact with any children. This will enable her to be effectively toilet trained and for her to be fully assessed by a clinical dog behaviourist as she is currently still a very young puppy and for the remainder of the summer term she will visit to acclimatise her to the school environment. Other conditions of Bramble at school will be;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She will be on a lead at all times when around the school or grounds • She will be in a secure place when unsupervised. • She will be supervised at all times when in contact with the public. • Ani-bacterial hand gel will be used by all after they have touched Bramble • Bramble will have no contact with younger siblings if they are under 3 years of age 		
Location(s) covered by this risk assessment:	▪ School building and surrounding site		
Name of person completing this risk assessment:	Mrs Kate Cracknell	Date of completion:	
Risk assessment approved by:		Date of approval:	
Date risk assessment to be reviewed by:		Risk assessment no:	

Record of risk assessment reviews

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Date of review:		Reviewed by:		Comments / date of next review: ▪
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Likelihood	Severity	Risk	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Who will do this?	When must this be done?	Completed on:
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child knocked to ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises. 	2	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			
	Child scratched by Dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. 	2	1	2				
	Child bitten by Dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will always be on a lead when moving around the school building. The dog will be trained not to jump up or bite the children. Pupils have been, and continue to be, taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to whole school during assemblies and PSHE lessons. Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms) The dog will attend the vets' regularly to make sure claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed. 	1	5	5				

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The dog escapes from a designated area, crate or office.	As above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The dog's pen is big enough for her to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease her. ▪ If the dog does escaped from the confined area she is working in, the teacher will call for a designated staff member who will come and return the dog back to her safe place. ▪ There are five members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if she needs attention at any other time, they are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs Kate Cracknell (Head Teacher). 2. Miss Marie Rowan (Admin Assistant) 3. Mr Simon Donovan (Site Manager) 4. Mrs Laura Back (Class Teacher) 5. Mrs Jan Piggott (LSA and Thrive Practitioner) 	2	1	2	▪			

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Dog hair causing allergies.	Children have allergic reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. ▪ The dog has a hypoallergenic fur type which is non shedding and therefore reduces the risk significantly for allergic reactions. ▪ A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by all Class Teachers, and maintained by the Headteacher. ▪ Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. ▪ Children have been taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. 	1	1	1	▪			

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Children getting germs from the dog.	Children/staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. ▪ The area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant. ▪ All immunisations (including rabies vaccination) are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and a register of this is kept by the Headteacher. ▪ Flea treatment is carried out at 6 weekly intervals. ▪ Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 6 monthly intervals. ▪ The dog will not go in the school dining hall at meal times; she will never go into the food preparation area of the kitchen. ▪ Anti-Bacterial gels/sprays will be used prior to and after any handling/touching the dog. 	1	1	1	▪			

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Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Cracknell, she is financially responsible for all her care. The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Cracknell outside of school hours. The academy only has responsibility for ensuring the appropriate business insurance is in place for Bramble when she starts any contact with pupils from September 2020 whilst on the site. 	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			
Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog.	School not adequately covered financially.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog is insured privately, via Mrs Cracknell, with Puffin Pet Insurance. This provides third party liability insurance cover for up to £3,000,000 per incident. The certificate is kept in school office. The insurance is renewed annually in June. The dog will also insured for business use by the academy for Pet Business Insurance. This provides public liability insurance for up to £5,000,000 from when she has any contact with pupils. 	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			

Sign off

- I confirm that I have read and understood this risk assessment.
- I have been provided with appropriate information, training and equipment to carry out the tasks covered by this risk assessment.
- I have had the opportunity to ask any questions and seek clarification on this risk assessment.

Name	Signature	Date

Risk Rating Matrix

Likelihood	Description	Score
Very unlikely	Unforeseeable that an injury or incident could happen. A 1 in a million chance of a hazardous event happening.	1
Unlikely	An injury or incident could happen, although unlikely. A 1 in 100,000 chance of the hazardous event happening.	2
Fairly likely	An injury or incident may happen. A 1 in 10,000 chance of the hazardous event happening.	3
Likely	It is foreseeable that an injury or incident will happen. A 1 in 1000 chance of the hazardous event happening.	4
Very Likely	Imminent possibility of injury or accident. A 1 in 100 chance of the hazardous event happening.	5

Severity / Consequence	Description	Score
Insignificant	No injury	1
Minor	Injuries only requiring on site first aid	2
Moderate	Injuries that might require further medical attention and injuries that could lead up 3 days' absence	3
Major	Serious injury including broken limbs and injuries leading to over 7 days' absence	4
Catastrophic	Fatality	5

	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Fairly likely	Likely	Very likely
Catastrophic	5	10	15	20	25
Major	4	8	12	16	20
Moderate	3	6	9	12	15
Minor	2	4	6	8	10
Insignificant	1	2	3	4	5

Risk rating	Actions	
1-2	No action	No further action but ensure controls are maintained.
3-6	Monitor	Look to improve at next review or if there is a significant change.
8-12	Action	Review existing controls and make any improvements identified within a specified timetable.
15-16	Urgent action	Take immediate action and stop activity if necessary, maintain controls rigorously.
20-25	Stop	Stop activity and take immediate action.