RISK ASSESSMENT	Activity or location being assessed: School The Dog Mentor: Fred The Dog Mentor registration number: DMD251440	
Establishment: Barrington CE Primary School	Assessment by: Jenny Duckworth	Date: 09/05/2025
Review Date: Yearly	Approved by: Jenny Duckworth	Date: 09/05/2026

The Dog Mentor

RISK ASSESSMENT

Dog Mentor Programme UK

The use of dogs in school is part of the recognised 'Dog Mentor Programme UK'. The use of dogs in the schools is part of a recognised programme and more information can be found at https://www.thedogmentor.co.uk

The dog(s) in school has/have undergone the Dog Mentor training and will work towards further awards within this programme. By working towards and gaining the awards the dogs are maintaining the high quality expected of Dog Mentors.

Agata Richards and Helen Brammar undertook their training on 9th May 2025.

Risk ID	Description	Impact	Owner	Impact	Probability	Risk Rating (Value)	Mitigation Plan	Adj Impact	Adj Probability	Adj. Risk Rating	Contingency Plan	Status
Risk No	Risk written in terms of the issue that could occur	Impact on the school, pupil, handler or dog		select Low, Medium or high	select unlikely, likely, highly likely or certain	Green < 0.25 < Amber < 0.60 < Red	What can be done to prevent the risk being realised	Impact on Risk following mitigation activities	Probability of issue occurring following mitigation activities	Green < 0.25 < Amber < 0.60 < Red	What could be done to minimise the impact if the risk is realised	Commentary of dates, actions and progress to minimise and retire this risk
1	Minor injury to pupil by dog (such as scratches)	Could require medical treatment (in school). Could also impact pupil confidence of working with the dog/s in the future.	Dog Handler	**Low**	**Likely**		• Dog supervised at all times. • Educating pupils and staff on behaviour around dog. • Limiting tricks performed for smaller pupils (high five, etc). • Dog's claws trimmed regularly. • Dog on lead at all times or in crate/office when not being supervised by an adult. The door will be locked, or signs put on the door so that children cannot enter when the dog is on its own. • Supervising adult to ensure dogs are kept on a lead whenever they are around children If dog has a 'right to roam' all stakeholders are informed of this. Right to Roam means off lead but with owner and not left unsupervised. • Supervising adult to ensure dog is exercised away from children this can be on the field and/or playground when not in use. If in use dogs are taken off site to be exercised. • Monitoring Dog's health and temperament at all times. • Dog trained to not pull while on walking on lead. Smaller/younger children to have a second lead with adults hold's first/main lead.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• Minor first aid • Parents contacted • Risk assessment reviewed • Debrief from staff in attendance • Accident form completed • Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place
2	Serious injury to pupil by dog (such as biting or mauling)	Would require medical treatment (in school or at hospital) after assessment. Could also impact pupil confidence of working with dog/s in the future and being around other dogs outside school.	Dog Handler	**High**	**Unlikely**			**High**	**Unlikely**		• First aid after in school or in hospital after assessment by first aider • Parents contacted • Risk assessment reviewed • Debrief from staff in attendance • Accident form completed • Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place
3	Other injuries	Trips, slips or falls not directly related to dog.	Dog Handler	**Low**	**Likely**			**Low**	**Unlikely**		• First aid after in school or in hospital after assessment by first aider • Parents contacted • Risk assessment reviewed • Debrief from staff in attendance • Accident form completed • Adjustments made if appropriate	Mitigation actions are all in place

4	Allergic Reaction	Allergic reaction to dog. Deterioration of healthy child/adult.	Dog Handler / Head of School	**High**	**Likely**		• All pupils to have completed consent form indicating any know allergies. Pupils with severe allergies to not work directly with dog. • All pupils to follow hygiene controls to minimise risk of affecting other pupils seek medical advice on pupils who may experience serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) as pupil's status becomes clear to school to enable additional controls to be put in place. • A letter about the dogs will be put in all 'welcome packs' so children and families new to the school will have the information. • Dog will be chosen which is low/non moulting resulting in low risk of allergic reaction. • Ensure that in line with school asthma and allergy policy, pupil medication is always carried with/near to the child.	**High**	**Unlikely**		• If dog comes into contact with pupil who has allergy, remove pupil from environment and seek medical advice if symptoms arise.	Mitigation actions are all in place
5	Illness transferred from dog to pupil	Pupil could become unwell after infection requiring treatment and/or time off school. Examples are worms, rabies, fleas, etc	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Likely**		• Dog to be inoculated against all recommended diseases as per recommended schedule and vaccinations/treatments to be kept up to date. • Worm and flea treatment to be carried out by handler regularly.	**Medium**	**Won't Happen**		• Dog has up to date medical history from vets. Flea and worm treatment carried out monthly.	Mitigation actions are all in place
6	Dog excrement	Hygiene issues within school. In extreme cases, feaces can cause a disease which can cause blindness.	Dog Handler	**High**	**Likely**		• Any excrement or urine will be cleaned up immediately and thoroughly disposed of responsibly and hygienically by the owner or adult with responsibility at the time of the incident. Member of staff who cleans away the waste will have undergone Hazardous waste training (RP/LD/CB/Cbr/JH) • If indoors, the immediate area will be sprayed with a preparatory disinfectant spray and any children will be removed from the area until it is cleared up. • Member of staff who cleans away the waste will have undergone Hazardous waste training (RP/LD/CB/CB/JH) • The dog will be taken outside throughout the day by an adult. This will be: Before the start of the school day and every 2 hours and more if needed. • All dogs are toilet trained and will use known strategies to alert staff member if they need to go to the toilet. • Poo bags will be placed in an external bin where the children do	**High**			• Appropriate action to completely clean area, all waste disposed of in correct manner	Mitigation actions are all in place

							not go (where all school rubbish is disposed of).					
7	General Hygiene	Germs could be spread between dogs and humans.	Dog Handler / Head of School	**Low**	**Highly likely**		• All staff and pupils to wash hands/use hand sanitiser after coming into contact with dog. • Keep dog away from all food preparation areas and away from pupils during times when they are eating. • The dog will be fed in the owners office. • The dog will be groomed every 6-8 weeks and have additional baths if required throughout the week. • Grooming will also involve nail clipping. • Bedding in the dog crate will be taken home and washed on a regular basis.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• No contingency plan	Handler to request that handwashing is put in place or introduction of some other method such as alcohol gel or wipes.
8	Impacts on Dog from other animals	If other animals such as dogs, cats or foxes are around in the school grounds, the dog could be attacked or chased which could adversely impact both the dog and/or pupils and staff. The dog/s could react adversely to other animals in school.	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Unlikely**		• Dog to be kept under control at all times. • Handler to be aware of environment at all times.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• Dog training and control is required to reduce impact and likelihood of occurrence	Mitigation actions are all in place
9	Minor Injury to dog	Intentional injury to dog by pupil who is showing uncontrollable or unreasonable behaviour. This could also result in injury to pupil if dog reacts adversely. Environmental risks exist where dog could get injured (e.g. open stairways, heavy doors or gates or roads near to school).	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Likely**		• Handler to be aware of situation at all times. • Pupil's temperament to be monitored. • Pupils showing unacceptable behaviour will not be allowed to work with dog. • Handler to always follow training methods on movement around school. • The dog should be kept on a lead while inside and outside. • Site has been assessed by The Dog Mentor programme.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• Handler to intervene if risk is realised. Pupil or dog to be removed from environment. • First aid may be required • Separate first aid kit should be kept on site for dogs.	Mitigation actions are all in place

10	Major Injury to dog	Intentional injury to dog by pupil who is showing uncontrollable or unreasonable behaviour. This could also result in injury to pupil if dog reacts adversely. Environmental risks exist where dog could get injured (e.g. open stairways, heavy doors or gates or roads near to school).	Dog Handler / Head of School	**High**	**Unlikely**		• As per minor injury risk above	**High**	**Unlikely**		• Handler to intervene if risk is realised. Pupil or dog to be removed from environment. • First aid to be administered and then taken to vet.	Mitigation actions are all in place
11	General welfare of dog	If overworked, dog could become tired and may display unwanted behaviour or become ill.	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Likely**		• Handler to be aware of dog's characteristics. • Provide dog with regular breaks and access to water. • Limit the number of pupils working with dog at one time to reduce chance of dog being overwhelmed. • Dog's to work according to their established/agreed timetable.	**Medium**	**Unlikely**		• Extended rest period for dog	Mitigation actions are all in place
12	Noise, barking	Could cause alarm to children/staff/visitors.	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Likely**		• If the dog barks at unknown adults– this will be managed by close instruction and positive reinforcement. • Key word to be used to help calm the dog 'settle' if they do become agitated e.g. handlers to address behaviour and seek advice from The Dog Mentor if it continues.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place
13	Training the dog	Dog being over stimulated or not responding to instructions given during training.	Dog Handler	**Medium**	**Unlikely**		• The training of the dog will always be supervised by a trained adult. • Pupils will be told how to feed the dog treats- on an open hand- • The dog will not be made things to do things it doesn't want to do. • If the dog shows any distress the training will stop immediately. • Pupil will be reminded to wash their hands after training.	**Low**	**Unlikely**		• No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place

14	Fire drill and evacuation	Dog being left in building unattended following evacuation. This would be against the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2016 and would cause undue distress for the dog and place it at considerable risk of harm.	Dog Handler	**High**	**Likely**		• Individual supervising the dog/young person will be responsible for safely leading the dog and others in their charge from the building to a place of safety. • The supervising adult will ensure the dog is placed on a lead if they aren't already. • Dogs should be signed in and out of school so that staff know when they are on site.	**Medium**	**Likely**		• No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place
15	Canine related diseases and parasites	Germs could be spread between dogs and humans.	Dog Handler	**Low**	**Likely**		• The dog has regular vet checks. • The dog will not come to school if poorly or has an injury. • Dog to have necessary and current vaccinations before coming into school. Vaccinations and other medical treatment are the responsibility of the owner- see above for dates. • Dog to have regular veterinary checks. • Dog to be bathed and groomed regularly- see above for dates	**Low**	**Likely**		• No contingency plan	Mitigation actions are all in place

REVIEWS:

To be reviewed in (DATE) or if any changes occur to the school community (pupils individual needs) or the dog.

DATE OF REVIEW:	**REVIEWED BY:**	**COMMENTS:**