**Whittingham C of E Primary School dog risk assessment**

The benefits of animals in school has been well researched. The responsibility taken by the members of class 3 in helping with our chickens has been invaluable. The guinea pigs have also helped Class 1 and children across the school too. With the rise in use of dogs in school and the benefits it brings I have looked at this as a possibility within school as timing has meant that my family have a young puppy. I have used this Risk Assessment (I have worked with Katie Chapel from Dogs Trust on forming this risk assessment) for use when she has visited school. She has visited school on 3 occasions and been widely socialised while I assess her temperament and also the children’s reaction to a puppy before I approached the Governing Body with the thought in mind of having a Reading Dog in school 1 x per week. I would appreciate your thoughts and whether this would be approved before involving children and parents.

Many Thanks Belinda Athey

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| **Risk** | **Potential consequence** | **Risk** | **Likelihood** | **Control measures** |
| Our dog becoming over-excited when interacting with children or adults. | Child bitten by dog | 4 | 2 | Our dog will always be supervised by a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises. The dog’s main residence will be in the admin area which is secure and separate from the classrooms. Our dog will always be on a lead when out of this area, except when she is undergoing structured training with her primary trainers.  Safety gates / dog crate will be used so that our dog can be secured in a smaller area if necessary.  All staff and pupils will receive guidance in how to approach dogs and this will be reinforced regularly. In addition, they will be taught how to prevent a dog from chasing them (standing still, crossing arms).  Our dog will undertake formal training from 12 weeks of age and the trainer will also provide specialised support within the school context and to up-skill the primary carer:   * Belinda Athey   This adults will monitor our dog’s mood and interactions to decide whether contact with other children/adults is appropriate at any given time. A specific element of her training will be to condition Our dog to sit when approaching adults or children to avoid her jumping up. Positive reinforcement will be used at all times.  Any interaction will be stopped if our dog shows signs of over-excitement, discomfort or distress.  If our dog is taken off-site, normal risk-assessed procedure will take place. The designated adult will keep control of the lead at all times. |
| Child scratched by dog | 3 | 2 |
| Child knocked to ground | 1 | 2 |
| Our dog gets loose from the secure area. | As above | 1 | 2 | Our dog will be contained at all times either in an office/ classroom area or on a lead. If our dog does get out of this area, the primary carer can be called upon to return our dog to her designated area. |
| People who are scared of dogs coming into contact with Our dog | Adult/Child becoming upset or anxious | 1 | 3 | All parents will be informed of the school dog and permission requested for their child to interact with our dog. A list of children without permission will be kept in the office.  A sign will be clearly visible in the Reception area informing visitors of the school dog and asking them to speak to a member of staff if they are fearful or have allergies. |
| Illness as a result of contact with Our dog | Children/adults contracting diseases that can be carried by dogs | 1 | 1 | Our dog will be registered with a vets and checked regularly for good health. All immunisations will be kept up to date and flea and worming treatments will be carried out at the intervals recommended by the vet (monthly and 3 monthly respectively).  If our dog appears unwell, she will not come into school or be sent home. Advice from the vets will be taken whenever necessary.  Our dog will not go into the dining room or school hall during lunchtime and will never enter the school kitchen.  All children will be taught and reminded to wash their hands after any contact with our dog.  Should our dog defecate on the school site, a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. Our dog will be trained to toilet in a designated area that the pupils don’t have access to on a regular basis. If necessary, specific areas will be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant. |
| Dog hair causing allergies | Adults/Children having an allergic reaction | 2 | 1 | Parents of all children and visitors to the school are asked to inform the school of any known allergies and only children with consent will be allowed contact with our dog.  All children will be taught and reminded to wash their hands after any contact with our dog. |
| Our dog accessing school resources | Damage to school property | 1 | 2 | Our dog will be under adult supervision at all times. Staff will be reminded to think about our dog when in the admin area to avoid objects being within her reach (e.g. food, pens etc. in pigeon holes). Treats will be available in the staff room so that positive reinforcement can be used to get our dog to drop any items she should not have.  Our dog will be provided with appropriate toys, chews etc. for her own enrichment. She will be exercised regularly to avoid boredom. |
| Financial cost of the dog’s upkeep | School unable to afford ongoing cost or medical bills | 1 | 1 | Our dog is the responsibility of Belinda Athey and will be financially responsible for her care and day to day costs.  The school may accommodate costs towards training (if appropriate) out of a specified budget.  Belinda Athey will insure the dog through a reputable provider and it will be her responsibility to keep this up to date. |
| Claim made against the school dog | 1 | 1 |

November 2019.