

Dogs in schools risk assessment

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES
Bites, scratches or illness caused by the dog	Staff, pupils and handlers	Low	• All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas • Dogs are groomed before the visit • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs • Handlers clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely – pupils are told to stay away • Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas
Allergies	Staff and pupils	Medium	• We seek parental permission for children to interact with dogs in close contact indoors • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies
Phobias	Staff and pupils	Medium	• We tell parents and children about the visit and the animal's presence is always planned and announced • Contact with dogs is optional • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	• Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times • Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and make sure the area and activity is safe • We check with the handler(s) and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once • Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces • School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs • We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired

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Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Medium	• Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all time during the visit • School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	Medium	• Dogs remain on a lead at all times • Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors • Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary • Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit