

Establishment:

Hildenborough CE Primary School

Risk Assessment



Activity/ Operation/ Event: Molly, the school dog- now that she is familiar with the school and the children are familiar with her (v4)

Assessment by: Ruth Ardrey

Date: October 2023

Target Date for review: October 2024

Approved by: FGB

Position: Governors

Date: October 2023

| Significant Hazards and Associated Risks Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people | Those who might be harmed Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified | Control Measures (CM's): Controls, including relevant sources of guidance (e.g. Generic Risk Assessments, Guidance from Provider, etc.). Specific CM's not included in the generic RA (e.g. briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors) | Additional CM's required? If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed | Residual Risk Rating (H / M / L) |
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| Dog getting over excited when interacting with children | Child knocked over Child scratched by the dog Child bitten by the dog | <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 premisesApril 2023: Doors will be closed in the office areas to allow Molly to roam around. Signs will be put up to alert school to this. Doors will remain closed.• Children are not left with the dog unsupervised.• The dog will always be on a lead when she is being walked through the learning environment or around children-playground, assembly, on the gate, etc.• The dog will only be taken round classrooms when she is calm enough to do so.• The dog will be trained not to jump up or mouth 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. | | L |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dogs Trust Charity have visited the children to teach them about suitable behaviour around a dog, how to be safe around dogs and how to treat dogs. This will be repeated bi-annually or sooner if required • Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still, cross arms) • The dog has undergone formal training (from the age of 12 weeks) with an experienced local trainer. Some pupils will be involved in training (with parental permissions) and along with the schools' primary handlers, continue to reinforce positive training strategies in a controlled area throughout the week. • The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, this area of training will allow future reading or nurture intervention to involve the school dog in a calming/therapeutic manner. • Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as the dog progresses through her weekly training routine. • ALL staff have been introduced to the dog and the expectations (do's and don'ts) of having a school dog which can be found in the School Dog Policy. • The dog will attend the vets' regularly to make sure her claws are kept short and that she is in good health. She will be regularly wormed and flea treated. | | |
| <p>Dog urinating and/or soiling indoors.</p> <p>And/or urinating on a human</p> | Children, adults, visitors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone entering the dog's safe place (Head's office/ office areas) will be warned about the dog's presence in advance. Visitor will be asked not to greet the dog until Molly is sat down rather than excitedly greeting or jumping. • Training will be undertaken and practiced continuously so that the dog does not get too excited with a visitor. • Jan 2023: Molly is toilet trained now, but if she urinates in excitement, then baby wipes will be at hand for the human • Carpet shampoo will be available if required | Training will be carried out regularly to attempt to eradicate excited greetings and instead sit and wait. | M |
| Visitors to the Dogs area being unsure/ worried about the dog | <p>Adults visiting Heads Office for meeting</p> <p>Children in Heads office</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families will be consulted and children will have permission to be in close contact of the dog • If parents have chosen that their child will not be in close contact of the dog, then the child will not enter the Head's office office areas. Or Molly will be placed in her crate within | | L |

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| | | <p>the office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On arrival at the school, the office staff will make visitors aware of the dog and check how they feel about it. • The dog will be in her crate during meetings if the visitor is unsure of dogs. Molly is able to be free in the office as long as she is acting calmly and not jumping. | | |
| The dog gets loose from her crate or from her lead | <p>Child knocked over</p> <p>Child scratched by the dog</p> <p>Child bitten by the dog</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog's crate & space is big enough for her to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease her. • The office is secured with a stair gate and the door will be shut when we need Molly to have restricted contact. When the children are in lessons, the doors between the offices and classrooms will be closed so that Molly has an extended play area outside of the office. Children can come through if they are confident to do so. If they are not, they inform a member of staff who will put Molly away. • If the dog does get loose from her safe space (into the classroom area/ or other space with children) the staff will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in the office. <p>There are designated 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miss Ruth Ardrey (Head Teacher). 2. Miss Emma Welch (Deputy Head). 3. Mrs Caroline Stone (Inclusion Manager) 4. Miss Kelly Roberts/ Mrs Julie Brooks (Office Team) 5. Lee Seal (Site Manager) 6. Sarah Smith (Rainbows Club Manager) | Now that all staff are familiar with Molly and all are comfortable handling her, anyone is able to act if needed. | L |
| Dog hair causing allergies | Children/ staff have allergic reaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies. These will be looked at prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school recording system and shared with staff. Currently the list is 0. • 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. | | L |

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| Germes carried by 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 an outdoor bin. The dog will be trained to toilet in a specific area of the school grounds. • All immunisations are kept up to date and the Head Teacher keeps a record of this. • Flea treatment is carried out at 4 weekly intervals. • Worming treatment is carried out as required. • The dog will not go in the school dining hall at meal times; she will not be permitted into the food preparation area of the kitchen. | | L |
| Financial cost of the dog's upkeep | School unable to afford ongoing costs of the dog's day to day upkeep and medical bills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog is the responsibility of Miss Ardrey. She is financially responsible for the dogs care and day to day costs. • The dog is the responsibility of Miss Ardrey outside of school hours. • Veterinary costs will be paid by the owner, with the exception of non-essential veterinary costs required by the school. • The annual public liability insurance will be of a cost to the school | | L |
| Claim is made against school re: Behaviour of the dog. | School not adequately covered financially | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss Ardrey, insures the dog via: Many Pets. This is a lifetime Cover. The school's public liability insurance is covered by Pet Business Insurance. • The certificate is kept in school office and is renewed annually. | | L |
| After school club in close contact before and after school | Children at after school/ breakfast club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the children from after school/ breakfast club, then this will be done in the presence of Sarah Smith and/or Ruth Ardrey (SS/RA). • The children are allowed to feed treats to Molly if permission is sought from Ruth Ardrey • The children are able to take Molly for short walks in the outdoor space, but must be accompanied by SS/RA. • Molly will remain in her safe space during the club opening times, unless accompanied by SS. | | L |
| Children scared of Molly/ other dogs | All children/ staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be offered socialisation time with an adult and Molly to ensure that the trust is built and relationship/ bond between Molly and child is strong | | L |

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| Molly nipping/biting when being fed | Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A staff member will accompany Molly at all times, the children are not allowed in the presence of Molly if an adult is not around. • Children will be shown by the adult how to hold/offer the treat/ food to Molly and Molly will be instructed to wait before accessing the food/treat. • Children will be asked if they are comfortable to do so and if so they can feed Molly if she is calm. Molly will not be fed if she is too excitable. • First aid would be sought if accident occurred and parents informed. | | L |
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| Date of review: | Reviewed by: | Actions needed (if applicable): | Action completed: by whom? When? Complete? |
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| 31 st Jan 2023 | Ruth Ardrey | None | |
| 6 th April 2023 | Ruth Ardrey | None- some reviews made | |
| 5 th October 2023 | Ruth Ardrey | None- new point added | |
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