



## Brindley Heath – Dog in School

Significant Hazards	Persons Affected	Controls	Risk Rating	Action Required	Action By & Date
Infection from animals that are not clean or carry disease/fleas etc	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All persons who come into contact with the animals wash their hands thoroughly with warm water and soap/ sanitise after the session.</li> <li>• Pupils are encouraged not to put their hands in their mouths or to their eyes etc. after touching the animals.</li> <li>• All animals are regularly washed/cleaned by the owner and have regular checks by a suitably qualified vet.</li> </ul>	LOW		
Animal will be kept with the owner/responsible person at all times	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog will be with designated persons and under full control at all times around school</li> <li>• The dog will always be with a responsible adult and under full control at all times around school.</li> <li>• The dog will be kept in the front offices.</li> <li>• To support the easy and clear separation of children and the dog who may not be confident, a gate will be fitted.</li> </ul>	LOW		
Cuts and infections from animals that bite/scratch etc	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The handler of the animal is experienced and will not use animals that are showing signs of aggression</li> <li>• Pupils are informed of the correct behaviour (eg noise levels, not to “poke” or tease the animal etc) before animals are handed round for handling</li> </ul>	LOW		



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils ignoring the rules will be excluded from the session</li> <li>• All children will be informed appropriate dog etiquette and rules and to identify how to recognise when the dog may be uncomfortable or overwhelmed.</li> </ul>			
Allergies that lead to short term ill health	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with known allergies to named animals are exempt from handling or getting exposed for long periods to that type of animal</li> <li>• Disposable gloves or other personal protective equipment can be provided and worn by the person if required</li> </ul>	LOW		
Infections from animal fouling	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All animals that are not caged/boxed are house trained.</li> <li>• The animal handler has a "spillage kit" with suitable cleaning and disinfectant materials should an accident occur whilst at the school.</li> <li>• Should the dog needs to toilet, this will be done carefully and not on school site.</li> </ul>	LOW		
Bites, scratches and infections	Pupils Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only keep suitable animals in school.</li> <li>• Ensure hands are washed before and after handling.</li> <li>• Prevent contact between kept animals, and their food, and wild animals to avoid disease transmission.</li> <li>• Carefully wash all animal scratches or bites. If in any doubt about infection seek medical advice.</li> <li>• Consider carefully and record which animals may be brought into school by pupils,</li> </ul>	LOW		



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parents, demonstrators or anyone else.</li> <li>Restrict animal movements if animal problems are prevalent, foot and mouth etc. and comply with local guidance</li> </ul>			
School not adequately covered for litigation	Pupils Staff Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school will have sufficient public liability insurance.</li> </ul>	LOW		

Children and adults can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills, through contact with a suitable, calm dog. In addition to these benefits, children and adults take great enjoyment from interaction with animals.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment? This policy shows that we have thought carefully about school life with a dog and how, through careful management, there is a very low risk of harm

#### Day-to-Day Management

The dog will:

- Not be allowed in school if he is unwell.
- Be kept on a lead when moving between classrooms or on a walk.
- Be under the full control and supervision of an adult at all times.
- Will be kept in Mrs James', Mr Martin's or SEND office with a quiet area for resting.
- Have had all vaccinations.

Our pupils will:

- Not have sole responsibility for, or be left alone with, the dog.
- Meet the dog in a small group, following 'approach, ask, pet, goodbye'.
- Be reminded of what is appropriate behaviour around the dog every time they meet him
  - Always remain calm.
  - Be gentle.



- Do not put your face near the dog's face.
- Do not disturb a dog that is eating or sleeping.
- Always approach the dog standing up.
- Do not feed the dog.
- The pupils and adults will also learn about how dogs express their feelings through their body language.

Growling or baring of teeth indicates that the dog feels threatened or angry. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog is displaying any of these signs, he should immediately be removed from that particular situation or environment.

### **Health and Safety Principals**

Children and adults will always wash their hands or use hand sanitiser after handling the dog. Any dog excrement will be cleared up immediately and disposed of appropriately by the adult in charge of the dog at the time. Children must never be allowed to do this.

Should a bite occur (even playfully):

1. Parents will be contacted immediately.
  2. The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing.
  3. The child/adult will be released for medical attention.
  4. All staff will be informed.
  5. A full investigation will take place.
  6. The suitability of having a dog will be reassessed by the Headteacher.
- The risk assessment will be reviewed annually.
  - Visitors and new pupils will be informed of the dog on arrival.
  - Public Liability Insurance will be covered by the school.