



Dogs in schools risk assessment template

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
Bites and scratches	Staff, pupils and handlers	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs must have a good temperament and be used to being around children Dogs must be at least 1 year old Dogs must be well trained not to bite, scratch or jump up Handler(s) will remain with dogs at all times Children are taught how to approach and interact with the dog 	Miss Goodall
Poor hygiene and health	Staff, pupils and	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated 	Miss Goodall

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risks	handlers		<p>for fleas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies 	Miss Goodall
Phobias	Staff and pupils	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with dogs is optional • Support given to children to improve confidence and resilience – children are empowered around the dog • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with a phobia if absolutely 	Miss Goodall

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
			necessary	
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times • Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and ensure 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 	Miss Goodall
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are told what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all times during the visit • School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or 	All staff

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			upset dogs	
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Miss Goodall

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