

GENERAL SCHOOLS RISK ASSESSMENT

This risk assessment must be adapted to meet the needs of individual schools and any specific arrangements must be added. School employees using this risk assessment must be aware of and refer to the CLEAPSS guidance mentioned in the 'existing control measures' section. This risk assessment should also be referred to in schemes of work, lesson plans, teacher planning notes, etc. relating to this subject



PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Area/task/activity: Therapy Dog in School

Location of activity: Classroom 1 School

School name: Address & Contact details:	Brindle Gregson Lane Primary School Bournes Row Hoghton PR5 0DR	Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment:	Sharon Kirkham
		Signature(s):	
Headteacher (Name):	Mark Melling	Date of Assessment:	28/01/2021
Signature:		Planned Review Date:	28/01/2022
How communicated to staff:	Email	Date communicated to staff:	28/01/2022

PART B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES:

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
General information	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	All below	◆ Staff always refer to the CLEAPSS document GL211-An introduction to keeping and handling Therapy Dogs in schools
General information	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	All below	◆ Follow guidance issued by the RSPCA on the 'Therapy Dog Friendly Schools' to ensure compliance with the Therapy Dog Welfare Act and best practice. https://education.rspca.org.uk/education/teachers/animalfriendlyschools

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Poor hygiene	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Infection, illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cuts and abrasions on the exposed skin of hands and arms are to be covered before handling Therapy Dogs; ◆ Pupils and adults must always wash their hands prior to handling the Therapy Dog and as soon as possible afterwards or after coming into contact with bedding, toys water bowl etc.); ◆ Reception & KS1 pupils hand washing is to be supervised to ensure that it is done properly; ◆ Reception & KS1 pupils are to be closely supervised to ensure they do not put their fingers in their mouths before hands have been washed; ◆ Therapy Dogs are not allowed to walk unrestricted around classrooms; ◆ Therapy Dog house/cage is cleaned and disinfected regularly; ◆ In the unlikely event the Therapy Dog gets onto tables etc. clean and disinfect them immediately; ◆ The responsible person will arrange to dispose of any uneaten dog food before it begins to decompose or attracts pests such as flies and vermin.
Manual handling	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, Therapy Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils and visitors are requested/instructed not to lift/carry the Therapy Dog as this could injure themselves or the Dog. Nominated members of staff supervise any interaction with the Therapy Dog.
Slips, trips and falls	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors, Therapy Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Good standards of housekeeping must be maintained at all times. The Therapy Dog is moved around the building on a short lead by students and/or staff to reduce the risk of anyone tripping over the Dog. Pupils are supervised by a nominated person at all times when handling the therapy dog. All liquid and faeces are cleaned up immediately to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls and also to reduce the risks from poor hygiene.

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed?	Type of harm	Existing controls (Actions already taken to control the risk)
Therapy Dog behaviour	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Bites, scratches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils are warned of the general hazards and risks posed by some Dogs; ◆ Procedures are introduced and pupils are taught the correct handling of the Therapy Dog; ◆ The Therapy Dog is closely supervised by an adult when in the presence of children; ◆ Pupils are closely supervised by an adult when in contact with the Therapy dog; ◆ A First Aid kit is available. Any Therapy Dog scratches and bites must be carefully washed and a first aider contacted; ◆ In line with existing school procedures, all Accidents/incidents will be reported and investigated; ◆ Consider the need for Dog Behavioural training https://archietherapy.com/ ◆ A Notice is displayed in School Reception area informing when the Therapy Dog is on the Premises; ◆ All Pupils, staff and visitors are made aware of the rules of behaviour when interacting with the Therapy Dog; ◆ Headteacher/nominated person provide regular reminders about the dog's needs and what might make them worried/nervous/angry;
Therapy Dog Welfare	Therapy Dog	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Therapy Dog is exercised regularly by a nominated person or supervised pupil. ◆ All gates must be kept closed/locked during exercise periods, regular checks of any fencing for breaches must be undertaken to ensure the dog cannot escape. ◆ The Dog is taught to signal when it needs a comfort break or is taken out regularly to allow for comfort needs.

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Therapy Dog Welfare	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers	Therapy Dog death Pupil upset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Any specific welfare conditions for the breed of dog have been considered prior to making the decision to allow a Therapy dog on site; ◆ Therapy Dogs have access to clean water throughout the day; ◆ Provision is made for the Therapy Dog's welfare out of school hours e.g. the Therapy dog lives with the Headteacher. ◆ The Therapy Dog has regular veterinary health checks, if it isn't feeling well, it will be removed from the school environment until it is feeling better or treated by a Vet. ◆ The Therapy dog is given regular breaks away from interacting with pupils.
Cleanliness	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors Therapy Dog	General wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regular cleaning of all areas is carried out by Site Supervisor/Cleaner/nominated staff; ◆ Workplace Inspections are undertaken on a regular basis by Headteacher/ Site Supervisor/Cleaner/nominated staff; ◆ Headteacher/nominated person ensures that the Therapy Dog is cleaned/groomed on a regular basis prior to coming into school; ◆ The Therapy Dog is kept in the Headteacher's/other's office when not interacting with staff/pupils. ◆ Blankets/bedding and crate 'safe place' are cleaned on a daily/weekly/regular basis, all blankets and bedding are cleaned off site by the Headteacher/nominated person; ◆ Windows can be opened to provide fresh circulating air; ◆ Air fresheners are available if required;
Fire/Emergency Situation	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, visitors Therapy Dog	Physical Injury/Fatality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Therapy Dog is accompanied at all times and will be taken to the Fire Assembly Point by Headteacher/nominated person as they evacuate themselves;
Noise	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers Therapy Dog	Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Headteacher/nominated person to instruct anyone coming into contact with the Therapy Dog to keep noise levels low to avoid upsetting/startling the dog; ◆ Staff to monitor the behaviour of students and therapy dog, including noise levels; ◆

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Security of Premises	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers Therapy Dog	Physical Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Controlled access, Safeguarding policy available; ◆ Staff to supervise pupils outside the building; ◆ The Therapy Dog is restrained on a lead at all times; ◆ Gates are kept locked, Visitors cars and delivery vans come into the car park/Street Park/other e.g. permission to access school grounds is sought from the Headteacher/nominated person;
Visiting other Schools/Premises	Pupils, teachers, adult helpers, Therapy Dog	Physical injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consent is received from the Headteacher/Senior management team/other before arranging any visit to another premise; ◆ members of staff accompany and supervise the Therapy dog and pupils at all times; ◆ If the Therapy Dog needs to be transported, a suitable method is used e.g. strapped in with a safety device attached to seatbelt in the vehicle or is placed in their crate whilst travelling in the vehicle; ◆ The Dog is fed/watered and encouraged to take a comfort break prior to travelling; ◆ Confirm date and time of visit prior to the initial visit by the Dog, discussions between both parties are recommended; ◆ Site is assessed to ensure suitability of a visit by the dog; ◆ Pupil visit risk assessments to be undertaken/reviewed as necessary; ◆ Parent/Pupil consent forms to be completed; ◆ The Headteacher/nominated person to reiterate responsibilities for the Dog's behaviour on other premises e.g. if another adult is with the dog they need to understand how to handle the dog what to do/and what not to do; ◆ Comply with all premises procedures; ◆ Signage to be displayed indicating "Therapy Dog on Premises" while the therapy dog is on site;

NOTE: CLEAPSS have issued a number of guidance leaflets on keeping Therapy Dogs in school as well bringing pets, etc to school that schools may find useful in developing this risk assessment further:

- L56 – Housing and Keeping Animals;

This general risk assessment will apply to this area/task/activity in most schools providing the control measures described are in operation and there are no further local significant hazards. If it does not fully apply and further control measures are required, please complete the Action Plan at Part C. If it fully applies please sign below.

I certify that the risk assessment above fully applies to the area/task/activity under assessment in
(Name of school)

Signed:

Name:

Risk Assessor:

PART C. ACTION PLAN Further action / controls required						
Hazard	Action required	Person(s) to undertake action?	Priority	Projected time scale	Notes / comments	Date Completed