

Guidance/risk assessment for school dog	
Purpose of the school dog	<p>Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, you just have to witness the interactions between dogs and children to realise the potential for greatness. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life. The key reasons we are introducing a dog to school are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dogs teach children responsibility. Having to remember to feed, provide water and show support for a dog can give children a sense of importance and satisfaction. The relationship that develops can be life-changing for a child and a great support system as they themselves continue to grow and develop. 2. Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time! 3. Dogs teach children compassion. Just like humans, dogs feel emotion and pain. They are prone to injuries and the infirmities of age during their relatively short lives. 4. Dogs teach children about socialisation. Like most of us, dogs are social animals who enjoy and need attention and affection. By learning how to interact with a dog, children can learn how to better socialise with other children. If they can learn the social cues of a dog, then interacting with humans who can talk will be a walk in the park (pun intended!). 5. Dogs are fun. Last, but certainly not least, dogs are a lot of fun. They greet you with a wagging tail every day and can cheer you up even on your worst day.
About the school dog	<p>Our school dog is a female blonde Labradoodle called Sybil. The Labradoodle is among one of the most popular breeds in the UK. The Labradoodle is the result of crossing a Labrador Retriever with either a Standard or Miniature Poodle. They are high energy dogs with some of them having low shedding coats which have hypoallergenic properties. As such they are often seen being used as assistance dogs for people who suffer from allergies. Labradoodles have become one of the most popular cross breeds in recent years as they combine the highly intelligent aspects of the poodle with the biddable nature of the Labrador. Sybil will be a medium sized Labradoodle from an experienced breeder whose parentage has been chosen for excellent temperament and health credentials.</p> <p>Sybil will live with the Executive headteacher, Jo Gordon, and her family.</p> <p>The school dog does not belong to the school and is the responsibility of the owner Jo Gordon. Sybil's wellbeing will be monitored at all times. Sybil will be introduced slowly over a few months and for short periods to the school environment interacting with small groups and becoming used to the different noises and comings and goings of the school environment. Sybil's attendance at school will be timetabled to fit in with suitable times for her to visit. Should Sybil become unhappy or distressed at school she will live as a family pet with Jo Gordon, and her family.</p> <p>Sybil will regularly visit the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there they will administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to her food intake to ensure she remains a health weight.</p>

Sybil will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. When this training is completed Sybil will be able to interact with children and adults. For children this will only be if parents/carers have given permission to do so.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for Sybil joining us outlined in the purpose, we also believe she will improve the children's understanding of our values and learning dispositions and help to improve and secure higher levels of attendance and punctuality.

Hazard	Impact	Action	Risk	Additional actions	Responsibility	Date completed
Dog biting a child or adult.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog will be trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the dog is voluntary. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Dog jumping up/scratching a child or adult.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog will be trained not to jump up/scratch. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. When children and adults interact with the dog a lead/harness or playpen will be used. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Dog running loose.	Child or adult could be hurt and/or school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor that the equipment used to contain the 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing

	property could be damaged.	lead/harness or in the room in the heads office.		dog is appropriate and effective e.g. the dog will outgrow both its lead/harness.		
Dog interacting with children and adults.	Child or adult could be hurt if the dog is not in the right frame of mind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will complete 5 hours of 1:1 training. The dog will be trained not to bite or jump up/scratch. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Before starting school the dog will have had experience of being handled, including by children. Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Interaction with the dog will be time limited and the dog will receive appropriate rest. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. When children and adults interact with the dog a lead/harness or playpen will be used. Interaction with the dog will be stopped if the dog is behaving incorrectly. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Dog damages school materials/property.	School materials/property will be damaged if chewed by dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in the heads office. The dog will have its own toys to play with including toys specifically for chewing. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor that the equipment used to contain the dog is appropriate and effective e.g. the dog will outgrow both its lead/harness, and its toys will become worn out and need replacing. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the dog.	Child or adult could be hurt and/or school property could be damaged. It could negatively impact on future interactions with the dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with the dog will be stopped if the children or adults behave incorrectly or inconsistently. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing

Use of rewards/treats for the dog.	Child or adult could be hurt if the dog becomes over excited when getting a reward/treat. Child or adult will need to use their hands to give the dog a reward/treat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. • Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. • Following interaction with the dog children or adults will need to clean their hands using alcohol gel/hand sanitiser. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewards/treats to be stored in a locked cupboard so that they can only be used following authorisation. • Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. • Ensure that all the interaction with the dog is completed in the agreed way. • Children and adults will be reminded to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog, including using rewards/treats. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Understanding of how to interact with a dog.	Child or adult and/or the dog could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before interacting with the dog children and adults will complete a 'Be Dog Smart' workshop led by the Dogs Trust (www.dogstrust.org.uk). 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an agreed way to interact with the dog. 	Jo Gordon The Dogs Trust	Ongoing
Phobia of a dog.	Child or adult could become distressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults will be informed in advance when the dog will be in school. • Interaction with the school dog is voluntary. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter sent to parents/carers during Spring Term 2020. 	Jo Gordon	Completed
Fleas/worms	If the dog is not regularly treated for fleas/worms there is a possibility that these will be passed to children and adults.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog will regularly visit the vet for check-ups, this will include worm and flea treatments. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to all recommendations made by the vet. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing

Faeces	Child or adult exposed to dog's faeces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only be walked under supervision. No child will be asked to pick up dog faeces, this will only be undertaken by a supervising adult. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the unlikely event that a child finds faeces on the school premises this will be reported to an adult. 	School staff	Ongoing
Allergies	Child or adult have an allergic reaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will only interact with the dog if parents/carers have given permission to do so. If a child or adult is allergic to the dog activities with the dog will not be in the immediate vicinity. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter sent to parents/carers during Spring term 2020. No allergies reported to school. A further letter to be sent to parents/carers and guidance/risk assessment to be shared in Spring term 2020. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Accessibility to dog's resources.	If a child accesses the dog's food/treats they could become unwell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the dog's food/treats will be stored in a locked cupboard. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All food/treats to be stored in a locked cupboard so that they can only be used following authorisation. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Contact with food preparation area.	If the dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or heads room. The dog will not enter the kitchen. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school staff to be made aware of this. 	School staff	Ongoing
Cleaning hands following interaction with the dog.	Child or adult could become unwell if hands not cleaned following interaction with dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and adults will be reminded to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the dog without supervision. Remind children and adults to clean their hands using alcohol gel hand sanitiser following interaction with the dog. 	School staff	Ongoing

Walking the dog on and off site.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No child will be allowed to walk the dog off site. If the dog is taken off site by an adult standard risk assessment procedures will be adhered to. No child will be allowed to walk the dog on site unless authorised to do so by a supervising adult. No child will be allowed to interact with the dog when it is walking on site unless permission is given by a supervising adult. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the dog is walked around the school. The dog will not be walked around the school during play time and lunch time. 	School staff	Ongoing
Visit to a classroom.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only visit a classroom with Mr. Silcock. Children will follow the agreed procedures for interaction with the dog or the classroom visit will be stopped. 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the dog visits a classroom. Staff will be notified in advance of all visits to a classroom. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Feeding the dog.	Child could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will eat in a contained space e.g. Heads office No child will be allowed to interact with the dog when it is eating. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers will need to give additional permissions for a child to prepare food for the dog. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing
Attendance at school events.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dog will only attend a school event if appropriate and will be supervised by Mr. Silcock. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given to the frequency and length of time the 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing

				dog attends a school event.		
Other dogs/animals on site.	Child or adult could be hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other dogs will be allowed on site. The dog will be contained at all times, either on a lead/harness or in the heads office. If other animals are on site activities with the dog will not be in the immediate vicinity. 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration needs to be given when allowing other animals to be on site. 	Jo Gordon	Ongoing