

School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

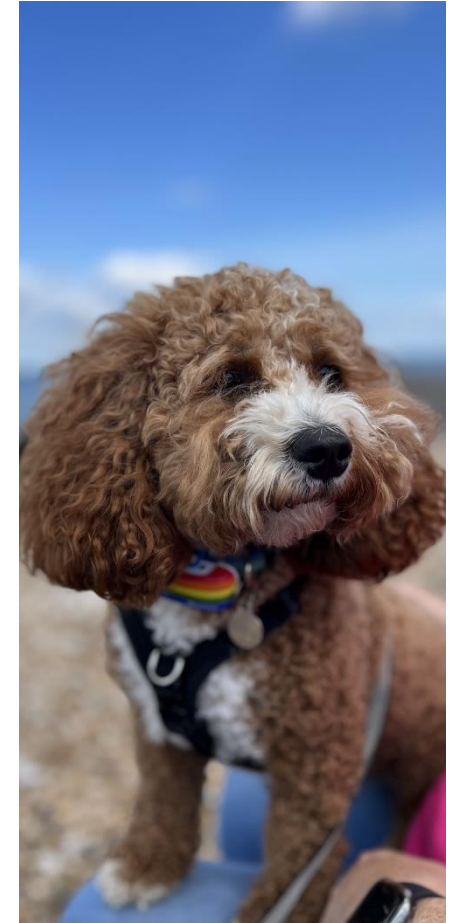
Purpose and introduction

Interaction with pupils and staff

Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog

Hygiene/Health

Activities involving the school dog, including walking



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Purpose	<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 that they can't get from school or other chores. 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. 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.6. Dogs improve mental health and wellbeing of those around them. Last, but certainly not least, all of the above combine to help improve mental health and wellbeing of those around them. They are non-judgemental, and keep what you tell them to themselves. They have boundless love and provide a calming environment when needed. <p>Many people have studied dogs in attempts to decipher their behaviour, and the theories abound. However, when you witness the interactions between dogs and children you realise the potential for greatness. Dogs can sense when children with epilepsy are about to have a seizure, they can sense when a diabetic child's sugar is low, and they can help children with severe physical disabilities find happiness in life. With the proper training and supervision, a dog can enrich a child's life. They can sense when a child needs calm and reassurance and provide love that helps improve mental health.</p>
Introduction	<p>The North Borough and St Paul's Junior School Dog 'Angus' lives with the NBJs Headteacher, Mrs Chiverton. Angus is a very caring and well behaved dog who has the right temperament to become a real asset to North Borough and St Paul's. He was chosen from a litter as he had a calm nature. He will start coming to school from 9 weeks old. To begin with, he will only interact with small groups of children for very short amounts of time, under strict supervision by a named adult. In this way he will 'grow up' at school and it will be part of his 'home' environment.</p> <p>Angus' Mother is a Bichon Frise/Cavalier King Charles Spaniel mix and his Father red poodle. This makes Angus ½ poodle and ½ cavalier King Charles/Bichon Frise mix – this mix is known as a Cavapoo cross or Cavapoochon.</p> <p>Angus is a member of the Dog's Trust and has their Pet Insurance which means he has public liability insurance, he also has pet business insurance. The Dog's Trust will also come to school and educate the children with regard to pet</p>

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safety. He also has his own pet insurance. The school liability insurance also covers Angus. This means he is able to come into school. Angus regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst he is there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as checking his general health. They make adjustments to his food intake to ensure he remains at a healthy weight, and give advice about his wellbeing where needed.

In addition to the 6 key reasons for Angus joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe he will improve the children's abilities and understanding within the school's values and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels.

Angus will come to school regularly with Mrs Chiverton to familiarise himself with how the school works and meet the humans. In time he will gradually begin to work with children and adults in line with agreed protocols. He will have a safe space with Mrs Borland/Mrs Head in the school office where he will not be disturbed at any time.

Area: Interaction with pupils and staff

Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times

Step 1 Identify the Hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	Action required
School dog biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if a dog bites	The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Angus lives with 3 adults and a child who handle him all the time to ensure that he is used to interaction with children. He also mixes with nieces and nephews and the children next door to Mrs Chiverton regularly to continue this exposure.	Low	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way

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<p>Jumping up/scratching</p>	<p>If a dog becomes excited there is a danger that they could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark</p>	<p>The temperament of Angus and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision</p> <p>The school dog will be kept in the Heads office or the main reception office when people come to interact with him or under lead control by an authorised adult.</p>
<p>Direct interaction with children/staff</p>	<p>If a dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ staff could be scratched</p>	<p>No interaction is allowed without authorisation</p> <p>Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour</p> <p>Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Ensure that the school dog is approached in the agreed manner. Angus will build up interaction time with children and adults. This will be for very short spells of time initially. He will be contained within these offices by dog, door guards. These will be fixed to the door by the site manager and will be regularly safety checked.</p> <p>Angus' safe space will be in the school/HT offices. When he is in this space, no adults, (other than Mrs Chiverton, Mrs Aldridge or the office team), or children will approach him. This is essential for his wellbeing and to prevent him from becoming overwhelmed.</p>
<p>Destruction of materials</p>	<p>If allowed a dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources</p>	<p>The school dog will be under close control at all times</p> <p>The school dog will have his own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective, (see above).</p>

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Step 1 Identify the Hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	Action required
Incorrect/inconsistent interaction with the school dog	If a child/adult interact with a dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this could affect a dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction	Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog	Medium	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped. Angus will be supervised by named adults at all times. These adults are: Mrs Chiverton, Mrs Aldridge, Mrs Webster, Mrs Burniston, Mrs Northover, Mrs Forrest, Miss Collins and Mrs Finch.
Use of rewards/treats	Children and adults could be harmed if a dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat	Adults and children are reminded to wash their hands. Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation	Low	Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats Treats to be put away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation. Treats will only be given by the named adults until Angus is fully trusted to take treats from children, this will always be under the supervision of a named adult.
Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a puppy/dog	If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to a dog or themselves	The Head teacher will be visiting each year group to conduct a 'Be Dog Smart' course with all of the children each year. The Dogs Trust will also visit each year group to run dog safety classes.	Medium	There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog, this will initially be under the strict direction of the named school adults, and will always be under direction of an adult.

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Step 1 Identify the Hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	Action required
Worms/fleas	If a dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	The school dog will be treated monthly for fleas and every 3 months for worms	Low	Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet.
Faeces	If a child/adult come into contact with dog faeces some germs could be transferred	The school dog will only be walked under supervision No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision	Low	If a child finds faeces (of any sort) on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult and will not go near it.
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	Angus is a Cavapoochon and is hypo allergenic If a child has an allergy parents are to contact the school. The dog will not carry out tasks near the child	Low	No child to go near/work with Angus if they are allergic. Children working closely with Angus will have permission from a parent, or adult with parental responsibility.
Children's access to school dog's resource	If a child has access dog treats/food and	All of the school dog's resources will be put away	Low	Remind children not to enter area. Treats/food to be kept out of sight. Children to be cautioned about touching dog food, (and told why they must not touch or eat it).

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	eats some they could become unwell	No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area.		
Contact with food preparation areas	If a dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	The school dog will be under close control or in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school He will never enter the school kitchen	Trivial	Angus will never enter the school kitchen, or any classroom during cooking sessions.
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	Low	Remind children and adults to clean their hands, either with soap and water or sanitiser.

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Step 1 Identify the Hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	Action required
Walking the dog on and off site	<p>Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed</p> <p>Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when a dog is on a walk</p>	<p>If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place</p> <p>No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult</p> <p>No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when he is on a walk unless permission is given</p>	Medium	Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes. Angus will not go for walks on or off site with children, unless they are supervised by a named adult. Children will not walk him off site, unless specific permission has been given by Mrs Chiverton.
Visits to classroom	If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure he may become over excited	The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop	Medium	Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms, this will only happen under the guidance and control of one of Angus' named adults.
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when a	Children will not prepare the food	Low	Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when he is eating. The dog will be fed and left in a peaceful, calm environment to eat.

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	dog is eating they may respond aggressively	for the school dog, they may give him treats as part of training him. All feeding will be supervised by one of the named adults.		
School events	If a dog is overwhelmed they may become aggressive or boisterous	The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and he will be under the control of a named, supervising adult	Low	Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events. If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog will either not attend school on that day, or will remain in the school, or HT's office in his safe space.
Other dogs (on and off site)	If a dog encounters another dog they may become boisterous	No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises	Low	Monitor the school dogs reaction when out walking. Angus will not be walked off site unless specific permission has been given.