Raynsford
Church of England Academy

SCHOOL DOG RISK ASSESSMENT

"Maggie"

Raynsford Academy Dog Risk Assessment

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

The rationale behind their decision was as follows:

- For the school to have a pet that was able to live as naturally as conditions would allow
- For the animal to be properly cared for outside of the school day
- To have a pet that the children could interact with and also be of benefit to the children's social and emotional development.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with 'Maggie' is invited to write to Mr Wheatley and inform him of their wishes. There are no diseases associated with Maggie as she has had her immunisations and Mr Wheatley will be responsible for future vaccinations, including rabies and completing regular health checks and necessary treatment. Maggie will also be insured.

The risk assessment below is a working document and will be checked annually by key staff and the governing body.

Date: April 2024

Review date: Annually

Potential Hazard	Risk	1-5	Controls in Place
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to the ground. Child scratched by dog.	1 1	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.
Child bitten by dog	Bite.	4	The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, their training will support future therapy or reading sessions to involve the school dog can be done in a calming/therapeutic manner. Risk of scratching and biting will reduce and the risk assessment will be reviewed as she progresses through her weekly training. All staff will have been introduced to the dog and expectations of having a school dog. Maggie will attend the vets regularly to ensure she is in good health and that her claws are kept short. Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions. Education of their nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and PSHE sessions. Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.
The dog gets loose from her crate or lead.		1	The dog's crate is big enough for her to be happy and safe during the school day and the children are taught not to tease her.
The dog causing allergies.	Children or staff have allergic reactions	1	Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies before the introduction of the dog to the school. A list of any children/staff who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school Integris system.

Potential Hazard	Risk	1-5	Controls in Place
			The children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog.
Children getting germs from the dog.	Children or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by dogs.	1	Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way. Maggie will be trained to toilet in an area of the grounds that children have limited access to. The area will be disinfected as required. All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a record will be kept of these. Flea treatment is carried out at 6 week intervals. The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.
Claim is made against school about the dog.	School not adequately covered financially.	1	Insurance will cover any claim. Certificate will be kept in office and renewed annually.