



Baskerville School

School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

Purpose and introduction

Interaction with pupils and staff

Pupils and staff interaction with Willow Hygiene/Health

Activities involving Willow, including walking



Introduction

Willow our school dog lives with our Head Teacher, Mr Lacey, and his family. She is a very caring and well-behaved dog who has the right temperament to become a real asset to our school

She has public liability insurance; this means she can come into school. She regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there, they administer worm and flea treatments as well as make adjustments to her food intake to ensure she remains a healthy weight.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for our school dog joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe she will improve the children's abilities within the school and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels.

Purpose

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).

1.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.

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. 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. After all, dogs are basically four-legged children who never grow up!



Area: Interaction with pupils and staff



Reason: To ensure the Willow 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 Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Willow biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if Willow bites	Willow is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. She lives with Mr Lacey who handles her all the time to ensure that she is used to interaction with children	Low	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with Willow without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with Willow is completed in the agreed way
Jumping up / scratching	If the Willow becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark	The temperament of the dog and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful. A letter was sent home asking parents to sign and return the form if they were unwilling for their child to have contact with Willow. Parents asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact	Medium	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with Willow without supervision. Willow will be enclosed in a cage when people come to interact with her or under lead control by an authorised adult

Area: Interaction with pupils and staff



Reason: To ensure the Willow 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 Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Direct interaction with children/ staff	If Willow is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ staff could be scratched	No interaction is allowed without authorisation. Interaction will be cancelled if Willow shows signs of incorrect behaviour. Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour	Medium	Ensure that the dog is approached in the agreed manner
Destruction of materials	If allowed Willow may chew/destroy some school materials/resources	Willow will be contained at all times. Willow will have her own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain Willow is appropriate and effective
Running loose	If Willow was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property	Willow will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in a cage or on a lead	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain Willow is appropriate and effective

Area: Pupils and staff interaction with Willow

Reason: To ensure Willow is effectively supported to interact 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 Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Use of rewards / treats	Children and adults could be harmed if Willow is over excited when receiving a reward/treat. Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats	Alcohol gel will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents). Treats will only be given to Willow with authorisation	Low	Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation
Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with dog	If a child/adult interact with Willow in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect Willows training and have a negative impact on future interaction	Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with Willow. There cannot be any interaction with Willow without authorisation	Medium	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with Willow the adult/child will have the interaction stopped
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 Willow or themselves	The Dog's Trust will be visiting each year group to conduct a 'Be Dog Smart' course with all of the children	Medium	There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school

Area: Hygiene / Health



Reason: To ensure that pupils, staff and Willow do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of Willow being in school

Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Worms / fleas	If Willow is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	Willow will be treated monthly at a local vets to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas	Low	Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet
Faeces	If a child/adult come into contact with Willow's faeces some germs could be transferred	Willow 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 on the School field/playground they will report it to an adult
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	Children will not be in contact with Willow if we have received a negative response form from parents/guardians. If a child has an allergy Willow will not carry out tasks near the child	Medium	
Children's access to school dog's resource	If a child has access to Willow's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell	All of Willow's resources will be locked away. No child will be allowed to enter Willow's area without authorisation	Low	Remind children not to enter area



Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Contact with food preparation areas	If Willow enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	Willow will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school. She will never enter the school kitchen	Trivial	
Cleaning hands after interacting with Willow	If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with Willow	Low	Remind children and adults to clean their hands

Area: Activities involving Willow, including walking

Reason: To ensure that Willow has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community



Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Step 4 Is anything further needed?
Visits to classroom	If Willow visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become over excited	Willow will initially only make classroom visits with Mr Lacey. The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop	Medium	Careful consideration will be given to when Willow can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or teaching assistant
Walking the dog on and off the site	Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when Willow is on a walk	If Willow is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place. No children will take the lead when Willow goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult. No children will be allowed to interact with Willow when he is on a walk unless permission is given	Medium	Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time Willow is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when Willow is eating she may respond aggressively	No child will be allowed in Willow's contained area when he is eating. Children may prepare the food for Willow (washing their hands afterwards). All feeding will be supervised	Low	Reminders to the children feeding Willow to not interact when he is eating