

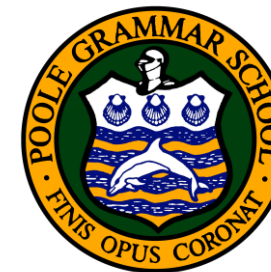
Poole Grammar School

Headteacher: Dr Amanda Smith BSc PhD

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Dogs in school risk assessment

Assessment conducted by: Mrs Katie Etheridge	Job title: Deputy Headteacher - pastoral	Covered by this assessment: Peggy; (cavapoo)
Date of assessment: January 2024	Review interval: 12 months	Date of next review: January 2025
Person ultimately responsible for the dog: Dr Amanda Smith		Brief description of the task, activity or event: To have a school dog on the school site.

What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
Dog biting or scratching a child. Dog getting over excited when interacting with people.	Students, school staff, visitors	A person is bitten by the school dog and the wound is severe enough to bleed. A person is knocked to the ground. A person is scratched by the dog.	A responsible member of staff to be with the school dog at all times. The dog will always be on a lead and/or carried when she is not in her crate. Any person interacting with the dog must follow the explicit instructions given by the member of staff handling the school dog at that time. Students have it explained to them about approaching the school dog and understand not to frighten her by making any movements that might be deemed threatening to the school dog. The dog is selected for her affectionate nature and good temperament. The dog will be well trained and socialised before interacting with students. Students/staff/visitors are instructed not to put their face close to the dog.



What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
			<p>Students/staff/visitors are only permitted to stroke the dog once agreed by the member of staff handling the dog.</p> <p>Only small groups of Students (1:1 or 2:1 with an adult) will be able to visit the dog at a time.</p> <p>Students will not be left unsupervised with the dog.</p> <p>Students/staff/visitors are not to approach the school dog when she is in her crate as this is her private, safe space, area.</p> <p>If the dog starts to get agitated, the adult will remove the dog from the room.</p> <p>Dog will be formally trained at puppy training lessons and if needed, beyond this initial course. Risk of scratching and biting will reduce as she progresses through her training.</p> <p>The school dog has regular visits to a vet carried out by Dr Smith to ensure she is in good health and her claws are kept short.</p>
The dog gets loose from her crate or lead.	As above	As above	The dog's crate is big enough for her to be happy and safe during the school day, her crate will be located in the Headteacher's office away from the commotion of the corridors.
Children misbehaving	Students, school staff, visitors and dog	As above	Students are told in advance what to expect and how to behave. School staff are present at all times. School staff are ready to remove any student(s) who misbehave or upset the dog.
Minor injuries related to dog housing and equipment	Students, school staff, visitors	Minor injuries associated with slips or trips.	<p>All dog bedding/housing is regularly checked for defects.</p> <p>All dog equipment is stored in the Headteacher's office out of the way when not in use.</p>



What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
			<p>The dog's food and water bowls are kept in the Headteacher's office and out of the path of people to avoid any trips.</p> <p>Any spillages from the dog's bowl are wiped up immediately.</p> <p>All dog bedding/housing is replaced regularly.</p>
Contamination from excrement or diseases or parasites such as fleas	Students, school staff, visitors	<p>A person comes into contact with animal body fluids and/or excrement and then touches their mouth/face or eats something.</p> <p>A person is bitten by a parasite.</p>	<p>All Students/staff/visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly before and after touching the dog.</p> <p>If the school dog is unwell Dr Smith will not bring her into school and will seek veterinarian advice. Should the school dog become ill whilst at school, Dr Smith will take her home immediately and seek veterinarian advice and the school dog supervising staff will ensure that any body fluid including vomit, or excrement is cleaned away and the area is fully sanitised as appropriate.</p> <p>The school dog has regular visits to a vet and has regular flea and worming treatments carried out by Dr Smith. All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the vet's advice.</p> <p>The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area nor food technology classroom.</p> <p>The dog will only be outside if on a secure lead and with an appropriately trained member of staff handling her. The dog will not be outside during busy playtime or lunchtime periods. A bin will be provided for dog excrement only. Only adults will pick up excrement and staff will ensure this is cleared up immediately and disposed of it in a safe way, it will never be left. Only grassed areas will be used for urination.</p>



What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
<p>People and Students with allergies to dog hair or Asthma etc.</p>	<p>Students, school staff, visitors</p>	<p>A person with extreme allergies to dog hair suffers a violent reaction as they are not aware that the school has a dog.</p>	<p>Notice in the school reception notifies visitors, parents and contractors that a dog is on site.</p> <p>Parents notified well before arrival of the school dog that one would be a permanent member of the school and all medical records kept and checked of Students who might have a reaction.</p> <p>The Cavapoo breed was chosen as it is lower risk for allergies. The dog is also kept well groomed.</p> <p>All Students and staff are advised not to touch their face after touching the dog.</p> <p>All Students/staff/visitors are advised to wash their hands thoroughly after touching the dog.</p>
<p>People and Students with Cynophobia - overwhelming fear of dogs (dog phobia).</p>	<p>Students, school staff, visitors</p>	<p>A person with a dog phobia is confronted with the school dog and is upset and frightened.</p>	<p>Notice in the school reception notifies visitors, parents and contractors that a dog is on site.</p> <p>Parents notified before arrival of the school dog that one would be a permanent member of the school and parents asked to notify school of any Students with a phobia or are anxious.</p> <p>Parents encouraged to share if their child has a dog phobia or is anxious so that we can take the necessary measures to keep the child away from the dog.</p> <p>The dog is always on a lead and is under the control of an adult – the person will be able to keep a safe distance and everyone will always have a choice if they interact with the dog, or not.</p> <p>The dog has a crate that can be used if visitors who are not used to dogs enter the school or if there is a situation at school that means the school cannot look after the dog adequately.</p>



What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
			During busy times, such as breaks and time between lessons when lots of Students and staff will be coming past the dog, the dog will be kept in a safe and secure area away from the commotion.
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site or personal property.	The dog	Injuries associated with property damage	A responsible member of staff to be with the school dog at all times. The dog will always be on a lead and/or carried when she is not in her crate. Dog will be formally trained at puppy training lessons and if needed, beyond this initial course. Risk of damage will reduce as she progresses through her training and the risk will be reviewed.
Claim is made against the school about the dog.	The school	Financially, if not adequately covered.	The school will have adequate insurance to cover any liability. Dr Smith is ultimately responsible for the dog both in a well-being and financial aspect including insurance.
The dog's welfare needs are not met	The dog	The dog becomes dehydrated, hungry or unwell. The dog suffers from stress	The dog has access to fresh, clean water at all times. The dog has access to a cool and quiet place where she can be left undisturbed. Students leave the dog alone when instructed by responsible school staff. The dog's welfare is considered as a priority when planning the activities that she will participate in. If an activity risks the dog's welfare, the activity is amended. Noise is kept to a minimum during the activities that the dog is participating in, e.g. if the dog is participating in a school assembly, the audience is instructed not to clap until the dog has left the stage. Responsible school staff ensure that the dog has adequate and frequent toilet breaks. The dog is not over-stimulated, as this can lead to potentially dangerous behaviour. The dog is not made to participate in potentially distressing activities. The school complies with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The dog is familiar with the members of staff and students who are participating in the activity with the dog. Flash photography is not used when the dog is present. The dog is given opportunities to exercise and move around independently in a secure area, e.g. the headteacher's office. The headteacher ensures that the dog is fit to participate in specific activities and is not brought into the school if she is unwell.



What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	How might they be harmed?	Control measures currently in place
			<p>If the dog becomes unwell while at school, the headteacher will take her home immediately.</p> <p>Before any activity is carried out, the headteacher ensures everyone participating in the activity understands how to treat and behave around the dog, e.g. not using flash photography, not shouting or clapping and not running around.</p> <p>Activities do not cause harm, discomfort or stress to the dog.</p>

Additional control measures required to reduce risks (if none, please state 'none')	Implemented by whom	Implemented by when	Date action completed	Final (residual) risk rating
None – all identified on the RA				Overall risk – moderate

The school considers the likelihood of risk, with mitigations in place as moderate.

As such, this risk assessment will be reviewed regularly at least annually.