

The Dog Mentor: General School Risk Assessment

Organisation: Leyland St James CE Primary School

Date of Assessment: 15th January 2026

Assessed by: Jenny Duckworth

Review Frequency: Yearly, or sooner if significant changes occur

Introduction

This general risk assessment outlines the potential hazards associated with implementing The Dog Mentor programme in the setting. Each risk is detailed using a structured format, including pre- and post-mitigation ratings, mitigation strategies, and contingency plans.

Risk 1: Minor injury to pupil by dog (e.g., scratches)

Risk Description	Could require medical treatment in the setting. May impact the pupil's confidence in future interactions with the dog.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog supervised at all times. • Educate pupils and staff on safe behaviour. • Limit certain tricks. • Claws trimmed regularly. • Dog on lead or secure when unsupervised. • Use signs/locks if left alone. • Exercise away from children. • Monitor dog's health. • Use double leads for young children.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer minor first aid. • Contact parents. • Review risk assessment. • Debrief staff. • Make necessary adjustments.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 2: Serious injury to pupil by dog (e.g., biting)

Risk Description	Would require medical attention and may result in long-term fear of dogs.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous supervision of dog. • Only trained handlers interact. • Observe dog's signals and remove if agitated.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid as needed. • Parents contacted. • Risk and incident reviewed. • Staff debrief.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 3: Trips, slips or falls not related to the dog

Risk Description	Possible minor injuries requiring first aid.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear walkways. • Staff supervision. • Teach safe movement around the setting.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide first aid. • Internal incident review.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 4: Allergic reaction to dog

Risk Description	Includes mild irritation to severe anaphylaxis.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allergy info collected via consent forms.• Prefer non-shedding dogs.• Medication access ensured.• Welcome pack includes dog info.• Hygiene standards maintained.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove pupil.• Administer treatment and seek medical advice.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 5: Illness transferred from dog (e.g., fleas, worms)

Risk Description	Pupil may become unwell requiring treatment.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog receives regular vaccinations.• Flea/worm treatments up to date.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vet support.• Monitor other pupils for symptoms.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 6: Dog excrement in the setting

Risk Description	Hygiene risk and potential for infection.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste cleaned immediately. • Staff trained in hazardous waste removal. • Area disinfected. • Dogs toilet regularly. • Waste disposed externally.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep clean area. • Remove pupils until safe.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 7: General hygiene risks

Risk Description	Spread of germs between dog and humans.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Highly likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing after contact. • Keep dog from eating areas. • Dog cleaned and groomed regularly. • Bedding cleaned weekly.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce hygiene protocol. • Use wipes or gel.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 8: Impact on dog from other animals

Risk Description	Dog may be startled or harmed by other animals.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog always supervised and on lead.• Handler vigilant of surroundings.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove dog from threat.• Training reviewed.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 9: Minor injury to dog

Risk Description	Unintentional harm from pupils or environment.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor pupil behaviour.• Use safe routes.• Dog on lead.• Avoid high-risk areas.• Dog-specific first aid kit onsite.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administer first aid.• Remove dog or pupil.• Record incident.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 10: Major injury to dog

Risk Description	Severe harm requiring vet attention.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as for minor injury.• Remove from high-risk situations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First aid then vet care.• Full incident review.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 11: General welfare of dog

Risk Description	Overwork could lead to illness or stress.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule regular breaks.• Fresh water always available.• Limit daily workload.• Monitor stress signs.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog rested for longer period.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 12: Noise, barking

Risk Description	Could upset pupils, staff, or visitors.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calm dog with cues.• Use reward-based training.• Seek advice if persistent.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None required unless repeated.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 13: Training risks

Risk Description	Dog overexcited or unresponsive during training.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training overseen by adults.• Pupils shown proper methods.• Stop if dog distressed.• Hand washing after.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End session and assess dog's condition.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 14: Fire drill and evacuation

Risk Description	Dog could be left behind or distressed.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog always supervised. • Handler responsible during evacuation. • Dogs signed in/out.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead dog to safety and log action.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 15: Canine diseases and parasites

Risk Description	Germs could spread to humans.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular vet checks. • No attendance if dog unwell. • Updated vaccinations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce hygiene. • Exclude dog if needed.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 16: Outdoor risks/Forest School

Risk Description	Dog may be injured by firepit, pond, terrain.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep dog on lead.• Avoid firepits.• Avoid steep banks.• Fence area if possible.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove dog if unsafe.• Vet care if injured.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.
