



Brandhall Primary School
Risk assessment – SCHOOL DOG

Assessment date: 28th September 2026

Review date: September 2027 (Annually)

Assessors: Dave Abbiss / Zoe Brailsford

Management signature: *D. Abbiss*

Name: Dave Abbiss

Risk

- 1 Very unlikely
- 2 Low risk of injury
- 3 Medium risk of injury
- 4 Major risk of injury
- 5 High risk of injury

Probability

- 1 Improbable
- 2 Remote
- 3 Possible
- 4 Most probable
- 5 Most likely

Hazard Identification	Risks	Current control measures	Risk 1-5	Likelihood 1-5	Review Date
Dog behaviour. Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	Child knocked to the ground.	Dog kept on a lead/harness at all times outside of office area and will not be allowed to roam freely around school premises whilst children are in school.	2	2	Sept 2026
	Child scratched by dog.	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.	2	3	Sept 2026
		Children attending workshops will be in a contained, controlled space with small groups of children whose parents have given written permission.	2	3	Sept 2026



Dog Pulling on lead	Child bitten by dog	The dogs nails will be clipped regularly to keep them short and will be walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them short Owner (Mr Abbiss) to regularly monitor dog's temperament, behaviour and mood Dog trained to have no mouth/teeth contact and to respond to command "Stop", "No". Children and staff aware to withdraw if any mouth contact is made by the dog Dog interaction rules/training given to all children and reinforced by staff. Pupils to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children during assemblies and PSHE lessons	5	2	Sept 2026
	Someone being pulled over	Mr Abbiss or designated staff member will have full control of the dog. The dog will be on a lead at all times. Pupils may hold an additional "training" lead for learning purposes. This will not control the dog in any way and will be in addition to the main control lead.	2	2	Sept 2026
	Dog misbehaving or following wrong command	Dog is fully trained by Mr Abbiss and key staff and knows all basic commands - No,	2	2	Sept 2026



Dog's reaction to children behaviour or banging doors, noise, teasing	Dog becoming scared, anxious, reactive	Sit, Wait, Stop, Calm etc. These may also be supported by hand signals. Staff member will supervise the dog at all times and Children will not be left alone with the dog. Children to be taught how to behave around the dog. Dog only with small groups of children, not whole classes. If the dog becomes anxious she must return to her safe space and be re-introduced when trust has been re-established and she is calm and comfortable. The dog is very familiar with the school site and surroundings and all the noises of school daily life including the school bell. The dog is comfortable around children and is used to interaction with them.	2	2	Sept 2026
Dog gets loose from lead	As above	The dog is fully trained and responds well to the recall command. A designated member of staff will come and retrieve the dog and put it back on the lead and escort it back to the safe, secure place in the office. The members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if it needs attention at any time are as follows; Mr Abbiss (Owner and Business Manager), Liz Hart, Tom Moore, Jane Brewer,	1	2	Sept 2026



		Michelle Roberts, Julie Evans, Helen Rawlings, Anne Wood. Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them (i.e. stand still with arms crossed)			
Hygiene/germs	Children coming into contact with faeces	Dog will have a dedicated area in school grounds to toilet. All faeces to be removed in a poo bag and disposed of accordingly. Should the dog defecate on school premises, a member of staff will clear it up immediately and dispose of in a safe manner. The area will then be disinfected with an appropriate animal disinfectant	2	1	Sept 2026
Sick or Ill Dog	Contact with sick/ill dog	If the dog is sick/ill it will not come into school until better. If the dog vomits on school premises a member of staff will clear it up immediately and disinfect the area with appropriate disinfectant. Children will be removed from the area.	1	1	Sept 2026
Children getting germs from the Dog Fleas, worms, ticks	Stroking/petting and touching dog and food/treats	Children taught how to manage canine hygiene and to wash hands after active participation with the dog. Anti Bac gel to be available in office/classroom Flea treatment will be carried out regularly and kept up to date	3	2	Sept 2026



Dog's diet		Worming treatment to be carried out regularly and kept up to date. Owner (Mr Abbiss) to closely monitor dog for ticks and obtain treatment if necessary or take preventative treatment if the dog is regularly walked in long grass/fields. All immunisation and booster vaccinations are kept up to date and a copy of the vaccination certificate is kept by the Head Teacher			
	Infection risk from dogs fed on raw diet	Dog will be fed on a normal kibble/dog food diet. Raw meat will not be fed due to parasites found in raw meat.	0	0	September 2026
	Dog eats toxic food and becomes ill	Staff responsible for the dog to ensure it does not come into contact with human food and is trained/monitored not to scavenge food.	2	3	September 2026
		Only dog treats to be fed to the Dog and supervised at all times by a responsible adult.	2	3	September 2026
Allergies to dogs Asthmatic/allergic reactions to dogs/fur, eczema.	Children/Staff have allergic reaction and need medical assistance	Parents have been asked to consent to contact with the dog prior to introduction of the dog to school Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and	3	2	September 2026



		those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. All parents to be advised that a dog is on the school premises/site Medical records used to list pupils identified with an allergy and not to have contact with the dog. The Dog breed is a Cockapoo and is known to have a hypoallergenic coat. Members of Staff to identify if they have any allergies and avoid contact with the dog Visitors to be advised that a dog is in the Business Manager's Office and removed if requested. The dog will not go in to the school dining hall at meal times and will never enter the food preparation area of the kitchen Dog bedding/blankets to be regularly washed to reduce dog/hair/dust.	3	3	September 2026
		The dog will not go in to the school dining hall at meal times and will never enter the food preparation area of the kitchen Dog bedding/blankets to be regularly washed to reduce dog/hair/dust.	1	1	September 2026
Dog becoming anxious or tired	Dog gets irritable or stressed	The Dog will have a space safe in Mr Abbiss Office. She will have her own bed/crate in which to have "quiet" time. Children will be taught NOT to disturb the dog when in her own space and when the dog is sleeping. The dog should not be woken whilst sleeping unless it is by the dog's owner	3	2	September 2026



Dog Phobia	Distress of children/ staff or visitors caused through close proximity to the dog	Notice signs in school entrance advising of dog on premises and noted on school website. Advise visitors and remove if necessary. Staff to be sensitive to all children's reactions especially if they appear nervous. Dog to be removed immediately if a child shows any signs of distress around the dog.	3	3	September 2026
Fire alarm	Dog being left in the building	Dog/owner to practise fire alarm procedure so that the dog recognises the alarm bell. Mr Abbiss or designated staff member to be responsible for removing the dog safely from the building. Dog should be signed in as a member of staff so that Fire Marshalls knows when she is on site.	5	2	September 2026
Financial cost and dogs upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost or medical bills	The dog is the responsibility of Mr Abbiss and he is financially responsible for his care. Mr Abbiss is the dog's owner and is responsible for him out of school hours. The dog is insured via Mr Abbiss.	1	1	September 2026
Claim is made against the school re; Behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	Additional public liability insurance is being sought through the local authority. The insurance will be renewed annually and policy documents kept by the school. Dog will not work with children until insurance is in place.	2	2	September 2026