



Brandhall Primary School
Risk assessment – SCHOOL DOG “OFF LEAD” WORKSHOPS

Assessment date: 28th Sept 2026
Assessors: Dave Abbiss / Zoe Brailsford

Review date: Sept 2026 (Annually)
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. Off lead Workshops – Dog will be able to roam free off lead and interact with the children.	Dog may be excited to be loose.	The workshops will be in a contained, controlled space with small groups of children, whose parents have given written permission.	2	2	Sept 2026
	Child knocked to the ground.	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.	2	2	Sept 2026
	Child scratched by dog.	The dog is trained not to jump up or bite. The dog's nails will be clipped regularly to keep them short. Staff to constantly monitor dog's temperament, behaviour and mood Workshops will only be carried out by staff who have received designated dog training	2	3	Sept 2026



Dog following basic instruction	Child bitten by dog	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.	5	2	Sept 2026
	Dog misbehaving or following wrong command.	Staff member will supervise the dog at all times. Children will not be left alone with the dog. The dog is fully trained and reacts very well to commands and the recall command from staff.	2	2	Sept 2026
	Dog not responding to the recall command when off lead.	Staff to be extra vigilant when dog is off lead and roaming free. Staff to retrieve the dog immediately if she does not respond to recall command.	2	2	Sept 2026
Dog's reaction to children behaviour or	Dog becoming scared, anxious, reactive	The dog is familiar with the school site and surroundings, noises etc and is also used to interaction with children. 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	2	2	Sept 2026



banging doors, noise, teasing		to her safe space and be re-introduced when trust has been re-established and she is calm and comfortable.	2	2	Sept 2026
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 poop 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	2	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	1	1	Sept 2026
		If the dog is sick in the workshop the dog and the children will be removed from the area.	2	2	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	3	2	Sept 2026



Dog's diet	Infection risk from dogs fed on raw diet	Flea treatment will be carried out regularly and kept up to date 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			
		Dog will be fed on a normal kibble/dog food diet. Raw meat will not be fed due to parasites found in raw meat.	1	1	Sept 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	Sept 2026
		Only dog treats to be fed to the Dog and supervised at all times by a responsible adult.	2	3	Sept 2026
Allergies to dogs	Children/Staff have allergic reaction and	Parents have been asked to consent to contact with the dog prior to introduction of the dog to school	3	2	Sept 2026



Asthmatic/allergic reactions to dogs/fur, eczema.	need medical assistance	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. 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.	4	3	Sept 2026
			1	1	Sept 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	Sept 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	Sept 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	Sept 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	Sept 2026
Claim is made against the school re; Behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	Additional public liability insurance has been sought through the local authority. RA shared.	1	1	Sept 2026