



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**  
*part of Bosco Catholic Education Trust*



# School Dog Risk Assessment

## Includes:

- Purpose and introduction
- Interaction with pupils and staff
- Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog
  - Hygiene/Health
- Activities involving the school dog, including walking

**Current Risk Assessments Completed:**

**23.04.18**

**Risk Assessments to be Reviewed:**

**Spring 2019**

# School Dog Risk Assessment

## 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).
5. **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!

## Introduction

The St Mary's Catholic Primary School Dog 'Deirdre' lives with the Headteacher, Mrs Irvine, and her family. Deirdre is a very caring and well behaved puppy who has the right temperament to become a real asset to St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Deirdre's mother is a cockapoo and her father is an American Cocker Spaniel. Deirdre is therefore a Cockapoo.

Deirdre is a member of the Dog's Trust which means she has public liability insurance of £1m. This means she is able to come into school.

Deirdre regularly visits the vet for check-ups. Whilst she is there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as making adjustments to her food intake to ensure she remains a health weight.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for Deirdre joining us outlined in the purpose we also believe she will improve the children's abilities within the schools core values, develop their literacy skills and confidence and help to improve and secure higher attendance levels.

# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Area: Interaction with pupils and staff</b>					<b>Assessment Date: April 2018</b>		
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times</b>					<b>Review Date: Spring 2019</b>		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating  <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School dog biting a child or adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog is being trained not to bite. When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Deirdre lives with 3 children who handle her all the time to ensure that she is used to interaction with children</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision</li> <li>Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jumping up/scratching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The temperament of Deirdre and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up, with praise/rewards being given when successful</li> <li>Parents/carers will be given the opportunity to ask for their child to not have interaction with the school dog.</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision</li> <li>The school dog will be under the control of an authorised adult when children interact with her.</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Running loose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the school dog was to run loose she could hurt children/adults or damage property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office (with a clear sign on the door), in a play pen or on a lead</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct interaction with children/staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/ staff could be scratched</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No interaction is allowed without authorisation</li> <li>Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour</li> <li>Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the school dog is approached in the agreed manner</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Destruction of materials</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If allowed the school dog may chew/ destruct some school materials/ resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The school dog will be contained at all times</li><li>• The school dog will have her own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed</li></ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective</li></ul>			
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# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Area: Pupils and staff interaction with the school dog</b>					<b>Assessment Date: April 2018</b>		
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times</b>					<b>Review Date: Spring 2019</b>		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating  <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorrect/ inconsistent interaction with the school dog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dogs training and have a negative impact on future interaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog</li> <li>• There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of rewards/treats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat</li> <li>• Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol gel will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents).</li> <li>• Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminders to the children to wash hands/use alcohol gel after handling treats</li> <li>• Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil/staff knowledge of interaction with a puppy/dog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Dog's Trust will be visiting each phase to conduct a 'Be Dog Smart' course with all of the children</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog</li> </ul>			

# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Area: Hygiene/Health</b>					<b>Assessment Date: April 2018</b>		
<b>Reason: To ensure that pupils, staff and the school dog to not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school</b>					<b>Review Date: Spring 2019</b>		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating  <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worms/fleas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school dog will be treated monthly at a local vets to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor that vet visits happen promptly and take actions suggested by the vet</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faeces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school dog will only be walked under supervision</li> <li>• No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces; this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can only be in contact with the school dog once the school has written permission from parents/guardians</li> <li>• If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child</li> </ul>	Medium				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's access to school dog's resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child has access to the school dog's treats/food and eats some they could become unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the school dogs resources will be locked away</li> <li>• No child will be allowed to enter the school dog's area without authorisation</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind children not to enter area</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with food preparation areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school</li> <li>• She will never enter the school kitchen</li> </ul>	Trivial				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind children and adults to clean their hands</li> </ul>			

# School Dog Risk Assessment

<b>Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking</b>					<b>Assessment Date: April 2018</b>		
<b>Reason: To ensure the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community</b>					<b>Review Date: Spring 2019</b>		
Step 1 Identify the hazards	Step 2 Who might be harmed & how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	Risk Rating <small>Trivial/ low / medium / high / stop</small>	Step 4 Is anything further needed?	Step 5 Action & Review		
					Action required	Responsible person	Date completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking the dog on and off site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed</li> <li>• Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessment procedure will take place</li> <li>• No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by accompanying adult</li> <li>• No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when she is on a walk unless permission is given</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits to classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure she may become over excited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with an authorised handler</li> <li>• The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careful consideration will be given to when the school dog can visit classrooms and be under the control of the class teacher or teaching assistant</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being fed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating she may respond aggressively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No child will be allowed in the school dog's contained area when she is eating</li> <li>• Children may prepare the food for the school dog (washing their hands afterwards)</li> <li>• All feeding will be supervised</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when she is eating</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog is overwhelmed she may become aggressive or boisterous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and she will be under the control of a supervising adult</li> </ul>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events</li> <li>• If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other dogs (on and off site)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the school dog encounters another dog she may become boisterous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises</li> <li>• At no time will the school dog be walked by a child and therefore if another dog is seen this will be handled by the supervising adult</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking</li> </ul>			
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<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Review Date:</b> <b>Spring 2019</b>
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