

Health & Safety Risk Assessment Record

Applicable to: The Whole School			Specify: Boomer, the reading dog		
Assessment Date: November 2022		Lead Assessor: Caroline McHugh		Persons consulted: Nicki Starling Governors Kennel club	
Review Date: November 2023		Further Action Required? (circle)	Yes		

Process/Activity	Hazards Identified	Persons at Significant Risk	Existing Controls	Are existing controls adequate? Y/N	What additional controls are required?
Hygiene	Handling the animal	Staff and children	Establish routines and procedures to teach the children about good hygiene habits around animals such as washing hands and avoiding the dog's mouth area. After handling the dog, make sure all the children wash their hands and any areas licked. (Dog does not usually lick). Have antibacterial gel available at all times in the dedicated space for Boomer.	Yes	Boomer to be accompanied by CM at all times when on the school premises.
Hygiene	Dog mess in playground / on school site	Staff and children	Boomer to be taken out every time for a walk before coming to site to minimise their need to excrete on the site. Dog to be offered toileting on grass in car park away from children. Any mess to be appropriately cleaned away; faeces in hazardous waste bin.	Yes	Dog poo bags to be in constant supply
Hygiene	Parasites	Staff and children	Dog will be vaccinated, wormed and flea protected in accordance with the vets recommendation. Dog checked over regularly for parasites. The dog will be kept clean and well groomed.	Yes	N/A
Hygiene	Contact with dog sick	Staff and children	If the dog is unwell, he will not visit the school. If dog is sick in school, the sick will be cleared up with paper towels, vomit absorber and disinfectant; gloves will be worn.	Yes	N/A

Allergy/ asthmatic reaction	Allergic reaction	Staff and children	All parents will be notified about the school dog and given the opportunity to opt out of having any close contact with him. They will advise the school of their child's allergies to or known fear of dogs. Medical records used to list pupils identified as having an allergy and not to have contact with dog. Boomer will not be allowed in rooms where staff/children have allergies. Good hygiene routines and hand washing to be followed by all who come in contact with the dog (see above). Days when Boomer is in school to be advertised on Anomaly board, events for next week and on Boomer's Room door – Boomer's main residence in the school.	Yes	N/A
Dog phobia	Anxiety caused by close proximity to dog- including those with religious beliefs that do not allow contact with dogs	Staff and children	All parents will be notified about the school dog and given the opportunity to opt out of having any close contact with him. They will advise the school of their child's allergies to or known fear of dogs. Visitors advised and the dog removed if necessary to a suitable alternative room. If an issue is pre-determined, the dog will not come into school that day. Boomer is gentle and well trained, and has been externally assessed as being suitable to be around children.	Yes	Where there is an identified phobia/anxiety the dog is not banned from coming to school, but every effort is made to segregate the dog from the people with phobias/ anxiety.
Scratched	Dog over excited in play or jumping up.	Staff and children	Boomer will be accompanied at all times by CM. Children taught how to approach the dog safely. Children to only pat the dog when he is stood or sat still. Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction. Rules to be re-enforced by all staff. Boomer's claws will be kept trimmed. Boomer is trained to not jump up and to remain calm. Boomer will be kept on the lead whilst walking around the school grounds.	Yes	Boomer will be supervised at all times he is in contact with children and staff. CM to be sensitive and vigilant to the children's and dog's responses around each other. CM will always be with Boomer and at least one other adult with the children if there are more than 2 children.
Dog bite	Dog bites someone	Staff and children	Children are warned of the hazards of animals, e.g. not tormenting the dog, not approaching a sleeping dog, recognising signs Boomer is not happy (eg growling) Children taught how to approach Boomer safely. Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction. Rules to be re-enforced by all staff. Boomer's temperament has been externally assessed.		Boomer is well trained and has achieved the Bronze Good Citizenship Award, recognised by The Kennel Club.

			<p>CM to regularly monitor the dog's temperament, behaviour and mood.</p> <p>CM to supervise the dog at all times and keep it on a lead when moving around the school.</p> <p>Only allow small groups of children to be with the dog at any one time.</p> <p>Children taught where to appropriately pat Boomer.</p> <p>CM to say 'no' firmly, if mouth contact looks likely or if a change in mood is detected in Boomer.</p> <p>Boomer to be removed if any mouth contact looks likely.</p>		
Animal Welfare	Aggression caused by stress, bites or scratches	The dog, staff and children	<p>Ensure Boomer has time away from the children in his bed undisturbed.</p> <p>Ensure Boomer has time in a quiet space without any children.</p> <p>Ensure Boomer only 'works' with the children in short bursts and with no more than 2 children reading to him at any one time.</p> <p>Ensure Boomer is not in school full time.</p> <p>Ensure Boomer does not come to school in very hot weather, as Boomer's welfare is paramount and also becoming overheated risks a change in docile temperament.</p>		N/A

Approved by Governors:



Date: 05.12.2022

Approved by Headteacher:



Date: 05.12.2022