



RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment for:	School Therapy Dog – Eddie	Prepared by:	Sarah Neusinger & H&S Co-ordinators SL & VD
		Assessed by SLT:	
Location:	ROSEWOOD FREE SCHOOL & AVENUES SITE AND OFF-SITE WALKING, LOCALLY	Date of Assessment	October 2024
		Review Date:	October 2026

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	Hazards Identified which may cause harm – consequence	Existing Level of Risk	Control Measure and Precautions Taken	Additional Control Measures or Further Action Required	Remaining level of Risk
Eddie being taken through school at intervals during the day; working with learners during the day	Employee, Learners or third parties	Jumping up, licking, or mouthing. Risk of minor injury, or passing on disease/infection	Low -6	Eddie will only be handled by familiar and confident handlers, and always kept on a harness and lead when out of the crate during the school day. Busy corridor times at the beginning and end of the school day will be avoided. If contact with staff or learners does occur then they will be encouraged to wash hands. Staff should stop a session and return Eddie to his crate in the event of any issues, and report to Sarah Neusinger and follow the school’s incident reporting procedures. Eddie will continue with regular training in order to reduce any problem behaviours. Eddie will be fully vaccinated as per veterinary schedule. Dog crate will be kept secure and clean.		Low - 3
Eddie being taken out of school / Avenues walks with staff and	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Jumping up, licking, or mouthing. Risk of minor injury, or passing on disease/infection	Low - 6	Eddie will only be handled by familiar and confident handlers, and always kept on a harness and lead when out of the crate during the school day. Eddie is trained to walk with familiar and less familiar adults.	Disposal bags provided for walk.	Low - 3

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Accident and incident	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Accident in varying forms caused due to incident with Eddie – attack / altercation with another dog, lead coming loose and Eddie off the lead.	Med - 10	Groups going out will have sufficient adult supervision to manage the safety needs of the learners as well as being able to manage Eddie (including disposal of poo bags where needed – note that from school you have to cross a road to access a bin). Class teachers to make a judgment of suitable learners to dog combination. Preferable learner and Eddie would be 1-1 with adult ratio.	Disposal bags provided for walk.	Low - 5
Panic caused by fear	Individuals who may be afraid of the dog / whole school community	Fear, anxiety	Low - 2	Parents will be consulted and given the opportunity to inform school if their child has a fear of dogs or any allergic reactions before any animal handling sessions are introduced to children. Eddie will only interact with learners when accompanied by a confident handler, as well as having sufficient adults in place to respond to learners and maintain learner safety during these interactions. Eddie's interaction with the school community will be on a voluntary basis and fully supervised by a confident handler.		Low - 1
Allergies	Employees, Learners, third parties	Skin rashes, irritation to the eyes/nose, breathing difficulties.	Low -6	Children / staff known to have allergic reactions to specific animals have restricted access. Good general hygiene and hand washing followed. Information about allergies requested from families annually. Ownership of public liability insurance or appropriate insurance and procedure in place. Eddie is professionally groomed regularly.	Allergies recorded on care plan and in individual learner risk assessment written by class teachers	Low - 3

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Bites or scratches	Employees, Learners, third parties	Injury, disease, infection	Low - 6	Eddie is only to be approached if handler agrees. Staff will be fully informed about how to interact with the dog, especially while any training is ongoing. Learners to be closely supervised during any interaction with the school dog. Eddie will be immediately removed from any potentially difficult situations. Eddie will be immediately removed if any signs of distress or warning signals are observed. Eddie will take part in regular, appropriate training. Eddie will be given time out to allow down time and relaxation. Eddie will wear a harness, lead, and collar at all times when not in the crate.		Low - 2
Animal health	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Disease, parasites, infections	Low - 6	Eddie must not be able to come into contact with wild rodents etc. due to the possibility of disease transmission. Eddie will attend regular veterinary appointments for appropriate inoculations/vaccinations – owner to maintain record of evidence. Owner/handler of school dog is experienced in the housing, feeding, handling and care requirements. The dog crate is kept secure and clean for the well-being of the animal and the school community.		Low - 2
Minor injury from equipment	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Disease, infections	Low - 4	Animal housing and equipment inspected regularly for defects. Crate and toys to be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Ownership of public liability insurance or appropriate insurance and procedure in place.		Low - 2

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Dog toileting needs	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Dog might wee/poo on school grounds. Risk of passing on disease, infections	Low - 2	Eddie is fully toilet trained. He is be given regular breaks outside of school and only allowed to go to toilet outside the school grounds. If out with any member of staff, Eddie’s bag will be taken, which is stocked with disposal bags.		Low - 1
Dog’s wellbeing	Eddie	Minor Injury to the dog Injury to the dog resulting in veterinary visit.	Low - 6	Staff will be fully informed about how to work with the school dog. All interactions with Eddie will be fully supervised by a confident handler as well as the classroom teams. Eddie will be closely observed during sessions and any stress signals will be responded to immediately, giving the dog time out to withdraw and rest if necessary. Good diet and enrichment opportunities are available for Eddie daily. Fresh water is available for the Eddie . Eddie is appropriately insured by Sarah Neusinger		Low - 3
Individual Learner issues	Employee, Learners, third parties or Eddie	Learner reacts to Eddie or responds in a way which causes him harm	Low - 4	Staff will be aware of individual learners’ ways of interaction and support as appropriate to keep both them and Eddie safe. Eddie will not work with Learner whose physical or emotional needs in that moment can not be matched to keep all safe.		Low - 2
<p>High likelihood of risk – Likely to occur immediately or in the near future Medium likelihood of risk – will occur in time if no preventative action is taken Low likelihood of risk – Remote or unlikely to occur</p>						



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Date Reviewed	Comments
April 2021	Initial assessment
April 2022	Annual update
November 2023	Update
October 2024	Update