

Hallsville

Primary School

Star the Dog

Introduction:

Current research is suggesting that a 'companion' animal in school can make a difference to the well-being of both staff and pupils. With this in mind, Hallsville Primary School has become the daytime home for Star, a golden doodle puppy.

In order for Star to be successfully and safely integrated into the life of the school, a risk assessment has been undertaken and is outlined below. The safety of children and Star are paramount. We must also ensure that a dog in school can have as natural a life as possible while in the school building.

The following precautions have been undertaken:

1. Research into the most appropriate breed indicates that golden doodles are well suited to working and playing with children.
2. A visit was undertaken to the puppy's home to see how she interacted with the children and family there.
3. The dog is regularly groomed and checked for any infections or illnesses.
4. Visits to the vet take place regularly and she will have all necessary inoculations.
5. Star is wormed every six months.
6. Star's claws are trimmed to reduce the risk of scratching.
7. She has plenty of exercise, and is exercised before working with children.

Star will undertake puppy training classes from a reputable training company. Work will also be undertaken to ensure that children know how to approach dogs and how to behave when dogs are around.

Star lives with Ms. Johnson when not at school and she will ensure that Star is healthy and fit to be in school at all times. She is registered with a vet in Essex and is up to date (and will be kept up to date) with immunisations and worming. A record is kept of his immunisations and health checks.

We appreciate that not all families and children are comfortable with dogs and will respect parental wishes for any child not to come into direct contact with Star. Please notify the office if this is the case.

Star and her owner will be expected to adopt the same cleanliness and policies as all other dogs on the school site. She will be on a lead when with children except in controlled supervised circumstances. She will not be allowed to toilet anywhere on the playground area and any 'mess' will be cleaned up and safely disposed of.



Hazard	Risk	Risk 1-5	Likelihood 1 - 5	Risk assessment (risk x likelihood)	Controls	Due to controls revised risk	Review and date
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children, potentially leading to:	<p>Child being knocked down</p> <p>Child being scratched</p> <p>Child bitten by dog</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p>	<p>The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult.</p> <p>Children will not be left alone with the dog.</p> <p>Children will be taught how to handle themselves around dogs in order to prevent behaviour that might over-excite.</p> <p>Children will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them.</p> <p>The dog will undergo formal training with an experienced trainer and this will be reinforced by all adults in school.</p> <p>Pupils have been, and continue to be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children and forms part of the ethos of the school</p> <p>The dog will be socialised with other dogs, adults and with children of all ages.</p> <p>As this training progresses, the risk of scratching and biting will decrease immensely.</p> <p>All staff members have information regarding the correct way to handle the dog.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>M</p>	Summer 2020
The dog gets loose from its lead		1	2	L	<p>If the dog is loose, a designated member of staff will come and put the dog back into its school home.</p> <p>Children will be taught how to react if the dog is loose in order to prevent jumping.</p> <p>The designated members of staff who will be called upon if the dog gets loose or needs attention are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Johnson 2. Ms. Jones 3. Ms. Okuegbuna 4. Mr. Cox 	L	Summer 2020
Dog hair causing allergic reaction	Children have allergic reactions	2	2	M	<p>Parents have been asked to let the school know of any known allergies including reactions to animals.</p> <p>Children will have the option to interact with the dog as they wish and</p>	L	Summer 2020

					<p>those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children are taught to wash their hands after handling the dog.</p>		
Children getting germs from the dog	Children/staff contract diseases carried by dogs	1	1	L	<p>Any defecation will be cleared up immediately and disposed of safely. The area will be disinfected with a suitable disinfectant.</p> <p>All immunisations are kept up to date and a register of this is kept by the Principal. Flea treatment is carried out every 6 weeks. Worming is carried out in line with European vet guidelines at 6 monthly intervals.</p> <p>The dog will never go into any of the kitchens or food technology areas.</p>	L	Summer 2020
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep.	School unable to afford ongoing costs of the dog's day to day upkeep or medical bills.	1	1	L	The dog is the financial responsibility of Ms. Johnson and she is responsible for all of the dog's care.	L	Summer 2020
A claim is made against the school in regards to the behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	N/A			The dog is included on the school's liability insurance.		Summer 2020