



Dogs in School Policy

Approved by Trust/ Local Governors: March 2026

Date of Review: March 2029



INTRODUCTION

Children and adults can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with animals such as dogs. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with animals in general.

This policy is non-statutory.

It aims to ensure the safety and welfare of pupils and staff. It also aims to ensure that the dogs involved in educational sessions, assistance or therapy dogs are healthy and happy, and treated with respect.

RISKS IN BRINGING A DOG INTO A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT There are a variety of accidents which can happen within the school environment which far exceed the number of injuries or incidents caused by a dog. However, we must always remember that dogs are animals and with that comes potential risk. As such the risk needs to be assessed and reviewed – see Appendix 1.

LEGISLATION

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Dangerous Dogs Acts of 1991 and 2014
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Statement of intent

For the safety of the school community, Great Kingshill Combined School has taken the decision to not allow dogs on the school premises at any time, unless:

- used to assist a person with a visual impairment or disability.
- the dog is the School Dog, for which a fully comprehensive risk assessment is in place

The school will take all reasonably practicable steps to facilitate the use of an assistance dog on the premises in line with its duties under the Equality Act 2010

For the purposes of this policy, an assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country.

Aim

Our aim is to deal with issues relating to dogs on our school grounds. There are four key issues to be explored:

1. Dogs being brought onto school grounds by parents/carers when dropping off or picking up pupils

2. Dogs being brought into the school as an interactive educational activity for pupils (including assistance or therapy dogs)
3. Members of the public using the area around the school grounds to walk their dogs
4. Stray dogs on school grounds.

We only allow dogs on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff or members of the public as a registered assistance or therapy dog.

School premises includes the entrance ways and pathways inside the school perimeter.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Code of Conduct

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Communicating to parents that the school operates a strict no-dog policy on its premises, excluding assistance dogs/school therapy dog
- Contacting the police or the LA Dog Warden, where necessary.
- Approving notifications from a parent regarding the need of an assistance dog on the school premises, e.g. when collecting their child.
- Managing complaints in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Liaising with the headteacher where necessary.
- Ensuring that appropriate preparations and reasonable adjustments are made when an assistance dog is expected on the school premises.
- Ensuring that any animal faeces present on the premises are removed as quickly as possible.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Reminding parents and visitors of the school's policy where appropriate.
- Reporting any issues to the headteacher.

Parents and visitors are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy and not bringing their dog on to the school premises.

- Notifying the school in advance when an assistance dog needs to be brought on to the school premises to allow the school to make suitable preparations.
- Raising any queries or complaints with the headteacher.

Pick-up and drop-off times

When dropping off or picking up their children at school, parents will not bring their dog on to the school premises at any time. This includes if the dog is tied up and left unattended at the school gates. If a parent walks their dog to and from school, the school will ask that they always keep the dog on a lead near the school premises in order to ensure staff, other parents and pupils feel comfortable when arriving and leaving.

If a member of staff sees or is made aware of a parent who has brought a dog on to the school premises, the parent will be asked politely to leave.

If a parent requires the use of an assistance dog on the school premises at any time, they will contact the headteacher to notify them of their need to allow the school time to prepare and make any reasonable adjustments where necessary.

Members of the public

The school will publicly display signs making it clear that dogs are not allowed on the premises. Any dog walkers will be asked to leave. If there are any issues, e.g. the member of the public refuses to leave, the headteacher will contact the police and/or the LA Dog Warden.

Assistance dogs

What is an assistance dog? – According to ADUK - <https://www.assistedogs.org.uk/the-law/>

The Equality Act lays out that in relation to protecting the rights of a disabled people when accessing private hire transport, an Assistance dog means

- (a) a dog which has been trained to guide a visually impaired person;
- (b) a dog which has been trained to assist a hearing impaired person;
- (c) a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
- (d) a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability

The Equality and Human Rights Commission states that assistance dogs:

- are highly trained
- will not wander freely around the premises
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to its owner and are trained to go to the toilet on command and so are unlikely to foul in a public place
- Most are instantly recognisable by the harness or identifying dog jacket they wear.

It is not a legal requirement for Assistance Dog users to provide ID but all ADUK members issue the people and dog partnerships they work with ID booklets. Not all assistance dogs are trained by ADUK members or candidates.

When it is known that an assistance dog will be required on the premises, pupils will be informed to ensure they are not surprised by its presence. Pupils will be instructed on how they should act in the presence of the assistance dog, and the importance of following these instructions. Pupils that do not follow these instructions will be disciplined in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Pupils with a known allergy to dogs will be kept away from areas where there is a high risk of allergens being present via the assistance dog. Allergies will be managed in line with the school's medicines policy.

For any visitors who use an assistance dog, a member of staff will be made available to help escort them around the premises. The dog will be kept on a lead at all times. The school will seek feedback from assistance dog users after visiting the site in order to understand how its provision could be improved.

Some assistance dog owners will want to accompany their children onto the school grounds whilst using their assistance dog. Anyone who has received training from an ADUK member will have been encouraged to have a conversation about this with the school in question before they bring the dog onto school grounds. If a school has concerns about the behaviour of an assistance dog, or believes that there is a risk to the safety of the children, they would have reasonable cause to have a conversation with the assistance dog's owner about how to eliminate such risks.

Complaints

Any complaints from parents about the school's Dogs on School Premises Policy will be handled in line with the Complaints Procedures Policy. The headteacher will aim to resolve any issues amicably and will be open to feedback from parents.

Advice to those bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times

It is recognised that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school.

However, others may find the presence of dogs in the school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. We respectfully ask therefore, that if bringing dogs to the school during drop off or collection times, you wait on the pavement for your child. Dogs are not to be left tied up unattended to any fence adjoining the school. The school's priority is the safeguarding of its children and staff.

- Please be aware that if approached by a member of staff about having a dog on the grounds to be respectful. The staff member is working under instruction from the governors to apply the agreed policy.
- For the safety of the dog, as well as for the benefit of others, do not tie your pet to the school building or fences and leave it unattended.
- All visiting dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult who is in control of them.
- No dogs accompanying children to and from school are allowed inside any school buildings or on the school playground, or within the school perimeter; only assistance / therapy dogs are allowed on the school premises or those attending for an approved educational activity.
- Unsupervised assistance / therapy dogs must be secured in an appropriate crate when on the school site.
- Assistance /therapy dogs must not be left unsupervised on the school premises and must not be left in the sole care of anyone under the age of 18. Dogs should be kept away from entry ways so that children have a choice whether they want to come in direct contact with the dog.
- If any parent or pupil object to the dog's presence then arrangements must be made to ensure that the dog is kept away from them. If necessary, the dog may need exclusion from specific areas.
- The adult bringing the assistance / therapy dog on site is responsible for cleaning up and removing from site any soiling by their dog on the school grounds and failure to do so will mean the dog will no longer be allowed in the school grounds (dog waste must not be put into the school bins).
- All dogs coming onto school grounds must be properly vaccinated and treated for fleas and other parasites, regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness.
- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed on school grounds until their health is restored.

A risk assessment has been completed for dogs on site which supports this policy (Appendix 1)

When bringing dogs near to the school site, dog owners do so with an absolute understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression towards children or others and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

It is understood that bringing dogs to school is a privilege not a right and is done at the absolute discretion of the Head Teacher.

Dogs being brought in the school as an educational activity for pupils

Schools may wish from time to time to bring a dog into the school as part an educational activity. This could include activities such as therapy dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs Trust Workshops, such as staying safe around dogs.

The following guidance should be adhered to:

1. A risk assessment is completed prior to the visit.
2. The dog is from a recognised organisation that can show evidence of the dog's nature and temperament.
3. The organisation has public liability insurance.
4. Parents/carers have been informed of the proposed visit/how the visit will be carried out.
5. Alternative arrangements made for pupils that may not wish to participate in the activity.
6. All necessary arrangements have been put in place prior to the visit, as agreed with the organisation bringing in the dog. This should take into consideration size, breed of dog, age group and numbers of children.
7. Consideration taken of any allergic reactions to dogs that pupils or staff may have.
8. Pupils have been informed of the appropriate behaviour around dogs, prior to the visit. This should be done in the conjunction with the organisation bringing in the dog and guidance taken from them.
9. Good hygiene and hand-washing procedures in place for pupils.

Members of the public walking/exercising dogs within or close to the school grounds

Staff on duty are to remain vigilant and ask the members of the public to maintain control of their dogs. If the safety of the children is in doubt teachers should escort the children back into school if it is safe to do so. School grounds are private property and should not be used for the purpose of exercising dogs. As we cannot guarantee that dog walkers will not leave dog mess or dogs will not urinate where children may play, people are not permitted to walk their dogs on the school grounds. **'No Dog'** signs are clearly displayed when you enter the school site.

When spotting a person bringing a dog on to school grounds, he/she will be approached by staff and/or a member of the Governing Body and asked to leave the school grounds explaining that it is private property. If this continues or staff feel they are unable to approach the dog owner the school will contact the local Council dog warden and/or the police.

Stray dogs on school grounds

If the owner of the dog cannot be located and there is a stray dog in the school grounds, the school will contact the local Council Dog Warden for advice and they will come and remove the dog from the school grounds.

Children should be kept indoors until the dog has been safely removed using the lockdown procedure if necessary.

**Appendix 1
Risk Assessment**

This risk assessment aims to identify and manage potential hazards associated with having a dog in school, involving all children as participants. It considers health, safety, and welfare risks to pupils, staff, and the dog, ensuring a safe and positive experience. It will be shared with all adults working with the dog.

Risk = Likelihood x Consequence

Consequence	Death	5	5	10	15	20	25
	Major	4	4	8	12	16	20
	Moderate	3	3	6	9	12	15
	Minor	2	2	4	6	8	10
	Insignificant	1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Certain	

Consequence Scoring

Score	Indicators
1. Insignificant	Minimal injury requiring no/minimal intervention or treatment. No time off work.
2. Minor injury	Minor injury or illness, requiring minor intervention. Requiring time off work for >3 days.
3. Moderate injury	Moderate injury requiring professional intervention. Requiring time off work for 4-14 days. RIDDOR/agency reportable incident.
4. Major injury	Major injury leading to long-term incapacity/disability. Requiring time off work for >14 days.
5. Death/Catastrophic	Incident leading to death. Multiple permanent injuries or irreversible health effects.

Risk Assessment:	Dogs on School Premises	School	Great Kingshill CE Combined School				
Assessment Carried out by:	Joanne Garlick	Role	CEO	Date:	March 2026	Review date:	March 2029 or as needed

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how? Who is at special risk e.g. young children, vulnerable adults	What are you already doing? (Current control measures, including those for people at special risk)	Risk factor taking existing controls into consideration			What further action is necessary? (Further control measures if required to reduce risk score to an acceptable level)	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
			Likelihood	Consequenc	Risk Level				
									✓

<p>Zoonosis-any disease that can be transmitted from dogs to humans, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundworms • Tapeworms and other dog conditions that can affect humans, • Ringworm (fungal infection) • Fleas • Ticks • Mange 	<p>Staff Pupils Visitors Can be affected by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ingesting dog parasite eggs • bites from fleas • direct contact of skin conditions <p>Children, the elderly and the immuno-compromised are at special risk</p>	<p>In order to minimise the risk of zoonoses, the school uses the following measures and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain parental consent and medical information for pupils interacting with therapy dogs • Indemnity insurance in place • Interaction area disinfected before and after visit • Use protective covers on furniture if needed • All pupils and staff must wash their hands before and after interacting/touching the dog. Youngest children should be supervised • Pupils should avoid touching the face (especially mouth area) after touching the dog and before washing hands 	2	3	6		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Site Team</p>		
--	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	--

Zoonosis cont'd		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the dog from licking faces/hands and wash hands/faces immediately if this should happen • Provide separate food and water dishes for the dog. Wash these daily and store away from dishes used by pupils, staff and visitors • Dog not allowed near food preparation areas • Ensure dog: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ is regularly washed and groomed ○ regularly dewormed ○ fleas and ticks are controlled ○ annual vaccination ○ regular check by a vet (owner confirmation) • Owners are asked to toilet/walk their dog before they come on site • Designated toilet areas and careful disposal of waste • Dog owners / handlers will pick up any dog faeces immediately, double bagged and disposed of appropriately. Gloves should always be worn. • If dog soils inside the school, then the area should be disinfected 	2	3	6		Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Site Team		
-----------------	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--

<p>Allergens carried by dogs e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • airborne particles secondary triggers carried on dog's fur, e.g. • pollen • mould • spores • dust 	<p>Staff Pupils Visitors</p> <p>with allergic asthma could be severely affected by airborne particles and secondary triggers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents have been informed that a therapy dog will be used in school and parents have made the school aware of any known allergies. This information will be shared with all staff • Pupil health care plans checked before therapy dog interaction • Limited contact for pupils with known allergies or conditions • Those with severe/life threatening allergies always carry emergency medication with them (such as Asthma Inhaler or EpiPen) • Competent first aider able to treat person with an asthma/anaphylactic shock attack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency use inhaler and EpiPen held in school ○ First aider will call emergency services if person's condition deteriorates 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		
<p>Allergens carried by dogs cont'd</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the risk of an allergic reaction, consideration should be given to confining the therapy dog to a limited part of the school. This could be a single classroom, or a room which preferably does not contain carpets or any heavy upholstery to avoid harbouring hair, fur, and skin cells. 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		

<p>Therapy dog's interaction with pupils/adults</p>	<p>Staff Pupils Visitors could sustain injuries from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bites • scratched • being knocked over if the dog becomes over stimulated and jumps up on pupils/adults <p>Younger children could be more at risk of being harmed because of their size and immaturity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interactions are closely supervised by owner • Therapy dog to remain on a lead • Pupils are taught appropriate behaviour around the dog (no sudden movements, no rough handling) • Interaction will be cancelled if the dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour. • Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour • Pupil numbers interacting with the dog, at any one time, are limited • Parental consent obtained for pupils to interact with dog • Anxious pupils to interact with the dog at a distance • Ear defenders used for pupils with noise sensitivity / reaction to stressful situations 	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a dog bite incident, an investigation into the circumstances shall take place and the suitability of having a dog in school shall be reassessed by the Headteacher 	<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		
---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--

<p>Therapy dog's interaction with pupils/adults cont'd</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of an injury, the First Aider will refer to NHS guidance on animal bites when assessing and treating the injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Aider will contact emergency services if necessary ○ Parents contacted without delay in the case of any injury ○ Any accident/incident reported on AssessNet • Dog being brought in is from a recognised organisation that can provide evidence of regular behaviour assessments in regard to such issues as: tolerance of rough handling • To qualify as a Pet Therapy Dog for the purpose of supporting staff and pupils in schools within our Trust, the dog must have been assessed and accredited by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Therapy Dogs Nationwide charity ○ Pets As Therapy charity ○ Therapy Dog Training UK Train My Dog to be a Therapy Dog 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		
---	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	--

<p>Therapy dog's interaction with pupils/adults cont'd</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the size/breed of the dog being brought in to school in relation to the age group of children • RPA will provide an indemnity if a school is legally liable to pay compensation in the event of Third-Party death/injury or Third-Party property damage caused by an animal that is owned by or under the control of the school. • Unless covered under a more specific pet insurance policy, the RPA will also provide an indemnity under the Third-Party Liability section if an animal brought into school for educational or therapy/wellbeing reason, causes any Third-Party property damage or injury to a third party (including pupils) to the extent that the school is legally liable to pay compensation or damages to the claimant. • The Employers Liability section will provide an indemnity to the school if the school is legally liable to pay compensation to damages to an employee injured by an animal on school premises during the employee's employment with the school. 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		
<p>Therapy dog's interaction with pupils/adults cont'd</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RPA does not provide an indemnity to the individual owner of the animal for their legal liability. • The RPA rules do not exclude damage to the school property caused by the animal. 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		

<p>Therapy dog's interaction with pupils/adults</p>	<p>Pupils/adults may develop or have an existing anxiety/phobia when interacting with a dog</p> <p>Pupils could be scared if they have no previous experience of dogs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare pupils with information about the dog's behaviour – use photographs, videos • Allow pupils to opt out or observe from a distance • Provide support for anxious pupils if needed • Anxious pupils to interact with the dog at a distance • Ear defenders used for pupils with noise sensitivity / reaction to stressful situations • Parental communication and support in preparation for therapy dog interaction for pupils with known anxiety / phobia • Pupils and adults with known phobias informed ahead of time of an assistance / therapy dog on the premises 	2	2	4		<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team</p>		
---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	--

<p>Pupils and adults' inappropriate interaction with therapy dog</p>	<p>Wellbeing of dog could be adversely affected by pupils/adult's inappropriate interaction causing the dog to become</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over stimulated causing them to become boisterous • overwhelmed causing them to become aggressive • distressed causing them to destroy materials • distracted in their work • tired 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner will remain with their dog during all interactions • Dog will be properly cared for and the Animals Act 1971 will be adhered to • Therapy dog will be trained and have their own toys to relax/play with at school • Pupils/adults will not interact with the dog until invited to do so by the dog's owner • Interaction time limited for each session so as not to tire the dog (30 minutes suggested) • Pupils/adults will follow all instruction given to them while interacting with the dog <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ only stroke the dog on its body, chest, shoulders, and the top of the head, not on the face or tail nor in the dog's mouth ○ will wait until the dog is stationary – standing, sitting or lying down – before touching it ○ will remain calm around the dog ○ wash their hands before and after interacting with the dog 	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If pupils are deliberately violent or threatening towards the dog this will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy and may result in fixed-term exclusion. 	<p>Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner</p>		
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

Pupils and adults' inappropriate interaction with assistance/therapy dog cont'd		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils/adults will not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ attempt to kiss the dog ○ feed the dog, or taunt the dog with food ○ approach or disturb the dog whilst it is resting, sleeping or eating ○ force the dog to interact with them ○ attempt to play rough with the dog as this can over stimulate them ○ eat during interactions with the dog • School staff are ready to remove any pupils who misbehave or upset the dog • If the dog is showing signs of distress, then the dog will be removed immediately 	2	2	4		Headteacher Pastoral Team Welfare Team Dog Owner		
Assistance Dogs visiting the school	Staff Pupils Visitors Could be at risk of harm from interacting with an assistance dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance Dogs should not be touched or distracted whilst in service and will wear a high vis jacket to show they are working. • Pupils and staff should be briefed on this and reminded regularly of the appropriate behaviour. • Where Assistance Dogs are used for identifying the onset of a medical episode such as fainting/seizure, it is important that staff and key pupils have been made aware of the meaning of the dog's signals and commands. 	1	2	2		Headteacher Pastoral Team Dog Owner		
Assistance Dogs visiting the school cont'd		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the responsibility of the handler to provide information on the dog's behaviour and command words in the event of a medical episode. 					Headteacher Pastoral Team Dog Owner		

Neglect or lack of care for the therapy dog	<p>Wellbeing of therapy dog could be adversely affected by owner's neglect causing them to become</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unwell • aggressive • unable to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner will ensure the dog is properly cared for at all times – see above • Animal Act will be fully adhered to • Where animals are brought in for a short period – for example just for a day/ hour – a protocol should be implemented which ensures the wellbeing of the animal, for the duration of its visit. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provision of water ○ designated toilet/walking area – including disposing of dog faeces • The dog should not come into school if showing signs of being unwell or has been unwell in the past 48 hours • The dog should not come into school if they have any cuts or open wounds 	1	3	3		Headteacher Dog Owner		
Banned Dogs	<p>Anyone on the school premises could be at a higher risk of harm by a dog that is on the banned list that becomes aggressive</p> <p>Children are at special risk because of their size and age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned Animals In the UK, it is against the law to own certain types of dogs. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pit Bull Terrier • Japanese Tosa • Dogs Argentino • Fila Brasileiro • Any breed of dog from the above list or a dog that matches the characteristics of a Pit Bull Terrier, is not allowed onto the school premises in any circumstances. This includes the Bully XL which has been responsible for 9 deaths since 2021. 	1	5	5		Headteacher Dog Owner		

Parents' Dogs	<p>Other parents and siblings of pupils who may be anxious around dogs could find it difficult to be in close contact with dogs brought by parents collecting their child(ren) at the end of the day</p> <p>Children in push chairs may be more anxious, as they are at the same level of the dog's face</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents who bring their dog into the school grounds, while walking their children to or from school, should keep their dog on a lead at all times. The adult must always have control of the dog – children must never be left alone with or in charge of the dog. • Any dog foul should be cleaned immediately. • Aggressive dogs, or those with a history of aggression, must not be brought into school grounds. • Parents should keep their dog away from other dogs as it is not always possible to gauge how dogs can react towards each other. • This information will be circulated to parents through a newsletter or through the school website. • The designated area for dogs is on the pavement outside the school entrance pathways / playground entrance. 	3	2	6		Headteacher Parent dog owners		
---------------	--	---	---	---	---	--	----------------------------------	--	--

Stray Dogs on school premises	Staff, pupils could be harmed by a stray dog if they gain access to the school field; they will be at special risk if the dog is aggressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is a stray dog on school premises, the local Council Dog Warden will be contacted who will come and remove the dog. • If a recurring problem with stray dogs on school property, we will review how the school site is secured and take remedial work to perimeter fencing which may help to reduce the problem. • Every attempt will be made to contact the owner of the dog • The school's lockdown procedure will be activated in the event of a stray dog on school premises • 	3	2	6				
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--

Any further controls need to be in place and monitored as satisfactory before finally updating and signing off this assessment. Always ensure the level of risk is reduced to as low as possible/reasonably practicable. Refer to table below for guidance.

			Risk scoring – Colour Code
	1-3	Very Low	Acceptable risk: No further action or additional controls are required; Risk at this level should be monitored and reassessed at appropriate intervals.
	4-6	Low	Acceptable risk: No further action or additional controls are required; Risk at this level should be monitored and reassessed at appropriate intervals.
	7-12	Moderate	A risk at this level may be acceptable; If not acceptable, existing controls should be monitored or adjusted with further action or additional controls as required to reduce the risk.
	13-20	High	Not normally acceptable ; Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, provided this is not disproportionate; Determine the need for improved control measures.
	21-25	Extreme	Unacceptable ; Immediate action must be taken to manage the risk; A number of control measures may be required.

Control Measures Acceptable Yes / No

Headteacher's Signature: **Date:**

Review date: - **(Annually unless a change or incident/accident/near miss occurs beforehand)**

Appendix 2
Sample letter to parents/carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know that the school will be bringing in a visiting therapy dog or I am writing to let you know that one of our pupils requires an assistance dog whilst in our school.

Pupils will be invited to take part in sessions with the dog or it is possible that pupils will come into contact with the dog whilst moving around the school.

The dog has undergone the appropriate medical checks and training to work as a therapy / assistance dog in a school.

If your child has a dog-related allergy or suffers from any kind of apprehension/fear of dogs, please let us know.

Please get in contact if there is any other information we should know related to your child before arranging for your child to participate in any dog therapy sessions.

*Please indicate below whether you give consent by deleting **I do / do not** as appropriate, and sign and date the form before returning it to school.*

Name of pupil: _____ Class: _____

I do / do not (delete as appropriate) give consent for my child to participate in sessions with the school dog / visiting therapy dog

Relationship to pupil: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____