



GLOUCESTER
ACADEMY

School Dog Risk Assessment

Includes:

Purpose and introduction

Interaction with students and staff

Students and staff interaction with the school dog

Hygiene/Health

Activities involving the school dog, including walking

**Current Risk Assessments completed: March 2023
(Updated November 2023)**

**Risk Assessments to be reviewed: Annually or sooner if
required**

Purpose

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 always 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.

Dogs teach children patience. Dogs do not always do as they are told first time!

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.

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).

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.

Introduction

Gloucester Academy's School Dogs 'Chester' and 'Treacle' live with our Headteacher's PA and her family. They are very caring and well-behaved dogs who have the right temperament to become a real asset to Gloucester Academy.

They are both Sussex Spaniels.

Chester and Treacle both have public liability insurance, this means they can come into school. Chester and Treacle regularly visit the vet for check-ups. Whilst they are there they administer worm and flea treatments as well as adjust their food intake to ensure they remain a healthy weight.

In addition to the 5 key reasons for Chester and Treacle joining us outlined in the purpose, we also believe they will improve the children's abilities within the school and help to improve and support higher attendance levels. Only one of the school dogs is on site each day.

Area: Interaction with students and staff

Reason: To ensure the school dog interacts appropriately at all times

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing	Trivial / low / medium/ high / stop	Is anything further needed?
School dog biting a child or adult	Child or adult could be hurt if the school dog bites	When the dog is approached in the correct way there is very limited danger. Chester and Treacle live with Mrs Lewis' PA who handles them all the time to ensure that they are used to interacting with children.	Low	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. Ensure that all interaction with the school dog is completed in the agreed way.
Jumping up / scratching	If the school dog becomes excited there is a danger that they could jump up and knock a child over or leave a scratch mark	The temperament of Chester and Treacle and the agreed training programme has involved not jumping up with praise/rewards being given when successful. A letter was sent home asking parents to sign and return the form if they were unwilling for their child to have contact with the school dogs. Parents	Medium	Ensure that children and adults do not interact with the school dog without supervision. The school dog will be enclosed when people come to interact with them.

		asked to explain their wishes to their child and ask them not to approach the dog if they do not want any contact.		
Running loose	If the school dog was to run loose they could hurt children/adults or damage property	The school dog will be contained at all times either in an office or the reading room (with a clear sign on the door), in a crate or on a lead, always under the control of their handler.	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective.
Direct interaction with children/staff	If the school dog is allowed to interact when not in the correct frame of mind children/staff could be scratched.	No interaction is allowed without authorisation. Interaction will be cancelled if the school dog shows signs of incorrect behaviour. Rewards/praise will be given to reinforce the desired behaviour	Medium	Ensure that the dog is approached in the agreed manner
Destruction of materials	If allowed the school dog may chew/destroy some school materials/resources	The school dog will be contained at all times. The school dog will have their own toys to play with and normal school resources will be removed.	Low	Monitor that the equipment used to contain the school dog is appropriate and effective.

Area: Students and staff interaction with the school dog

Reason: To ensure the school dog is effectively supported to interact appropriately at all times

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?
Incorrect / inconsistent interaction with dog	If a child/adult interacts with the school dog in the incorrect or inconsistent way this will affect the school dog's training and have a negative impact on future interaction.	Agreed guidelines that must be followed at all times when interacting with the school dog. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation.	Medium	If there are any inconsistencies in approach with the school dog the adult/child will have the interaction stopped
Use of rewards / treats	Children and adults could be harmed if the school dog is over excited when receiving a reward/treat. Children/adult must clean their hands after handling treats	Alcohol gel will be available to all adults (and children with written permission from parents). Treats will only be given to the school dog with authorisation.	Low	Reminders to the children to wash hands / use alcohol gel after handling treats. Treats to be locked away to ensure they can only be used after authorisation.
Student/staff knowledge of interaction with a dog	If adults and children have limited knowledge of how to interact correctly this could result in harm to the school dog or themselves	The school will deliver regular education to students about the correct interaction with Chester and Treacle.	Medium	There will be an agreed format for how to interact with the school dog.

Area: Hygiene / Health				
Reason: To ensure that students, staff and the school dog do not have an increased risk of illness as a result of the school dog being in school				
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?
Worms / fleas	If the school dog is not treated for worms there is a danger that germs can be transferred to humans	The school dog will be treated monthly to ensure she is correctly treated for worms and fleas	Low	
Faeces	If a child/adult come into contact with the school dog's faeces some germs could be transferred	The school dog will only be walked under supervision. No child will be asked to pick up the dog's faeces, this will always be undertaken by the adult in supervision.	Low	If a child finds faeces on the school field/playground they will report it to an adult.
Allergies	If a child is allergic to dogs they could become unwell	Children will not be in contact with the school dog if we have received a negative permission response form from parents/carers. If a child has an allergy the school dog will not carry out tasks near the child.	Medium	
Contact with food preparation areas	If the school dog enters a food preparation area this could be unhygienic	The school dog will be in a contained area or on a lead at all times around school. She will never enter the school kitchen.	Trivial	
Cleaning hands after interacting with the school dog	If hands are not cleaned children/adults could become unwell	All adults and children will clean their hands after interaction with the school dog	Low	Remind children and adults to clean their hands.

Area: Activities involving the school dog, including walking.

Reason: To ensure that the school dog has a meaningful and safe impact on the school community.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Risk Rating	Step 4
Identify the hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Trivial / low / medium / high / stop	Is anything further needed?
Walking the dog on and off the site	Children could be harmed during a walk offsite if they are not focussed. Children might be harmed if they do not interact correctly when the school dog is on a walk	If the school dog is taken off site normal risk assessed procedure will take place. No children will take the lead when the school dog goes for a walk unless authorised to do so by an accompanying adult. No children will be allowed to interact with the school dog when they are on a walk unless permission is given.	Medium	Careful consideration needs to be given to the amount of time the school dog is allowed to walk around school during play/lunchtimes.
Visits to classroom	If the school dog visits a class and the children do not follow the correct procedure they may become over excited	The school dog will initially only make classroom visits with the Head's PA. The children in classrooms will follow the agreed procedure or interaction will stop.	Medium	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.
Being fed	If a child tries to interact when the school dog is eating they may respond aggressively	No child will be allowed to the school dog's contained area when they are eating. Children may prepare the food for the school dog	Low	Reminders to the children feeding the school dog to not interact when they are eating.

		(washing their hands afterwards). All feeding will be supervised.		
School events	If the school dog is overwhelmed they may become aggressive or boisterous	The school dog will only attend school events if they are appropriate and they will be under the control of a supervising adult	Low	Monitor the school dog's reaction to school events. If the school events are too overwhelming the school dog might not attend school on that day
Other dogs (on and off the site)	If the school dog is overwhelmed they may become aggressive or boisterous	No other dogs will be allowed on the school premises	Low	Monitor the school dog's reaction when out walking.