

Therapy Dogs in schools risk assessment
(Reading to dogs sessions)



PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Area/task/activity: Reading to dogs therapy sessions – First session Monday 24th May at 13:30 (weekly/fortnightly thereafter tbc)

Location of activity: School hall/other suitable room (when wet) Keystage 2 garden (when dry)

Team/School name: Address & Contact details:	St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School Penny Stone Road Halton Lancaster LA2 6QE	Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment:	Claire Weymouth- Headteacher Jane Wall-Budden- Pastoral Support
		Signature(s):	
Line Manager/ Head Teacher (Name/Title):	Headteacher - Claire Weymouth	Date of Assessment:	May 2021
Signature:		Planned Review Date:	September 2021
How communicated to staff:	Shared electronically to involved staff, verbally discussed as part of staff meeting	Date communicated to staff:	May 2021

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Covid-19	Staff, pupils and handler	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School to ask Handler to take Lateral flow test before entering school building (as requested for all visitors) • Staff and handler to wear appropriate PPE to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 • Handler to confirm they have not had any symptoms of COVID-19 nor been in close contact with anyone testing positive for COVID-19 before visit. • Staff to ensure handler uses hand sanitiser before entering school site and remains socially distanced from other adults where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trained therapy dog handler (John Shields)

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Bites and scratches	Staff, pupils and handler	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs that visit are healthy with no conditions that could be passed on to humans via contact i.e vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas • All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs • Handlers clear up dog urine and faeces promptly and dispose of this safely - pupils are told to stay away • Dogs are not taken anywhere near food preparation areas • Dog and handler will have completed therapy dog training to ensure they are safe to be around children. • Dog and handler will be insured by relevant charity that they completed training with (Pets as Therapy). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff overseeing visits (tbc) • Trained therapy dog handler (John Shields)

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Allergies	Staff and pupils	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will seek individual parental permission for children to interact with dogs • Only selected children who are cleared for allergies and have parental permission will have contact with dogs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LF and JWB to ensure that parents of children selected are fully informed of visits and give permission and confirmation of no allergies • Staff present at sessions to remain vigilant for signs of allergies in children
Phobias	Staff and pupils	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We tell parents and children about the visit in advance and if necessary, we will provide an initial observation session to watch the dogs at a distance to allay any initial fears, • Contact with dogs is optional and staff will choose carefully children that contact would benefit. Parents will have definitive decision about their child having contact with dogs in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JWB and CW to select appropriate children for visits • LF & JWB to ensure that parents of children selected are fully informed of visits and give permission and confirmation of no allergies • For those children who may have some initial anxieties, staff to agree an induction visit from a safe distance

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times • Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and ensure the area and activity is safe • set limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once- agreed as no more than 2 children at one time. • Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces • School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs • Time limit on activities as recommended by handler(s), so dogs do not get tired or overwhelmed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained therapy dog handler (John Shields) • Staff to ensure they remain vigilant with children visiting and if there are signs of distress or anxiety- and make informed decisions about ending the session early if necessary.
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave • School staff are present at all time during the visit • School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs or show signs of distress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff

HAZARD	WHO IS AFFECTED/AT RISK	RISK RATING (LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTIONS/CONTROL MEASURES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs to wear therapy dog harness • Dogs are kept in safe rooms free from too many distractions or outside in a safe/quiet area away from distractions • Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary • Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained therapy dog handler (John Shields) • Staff