

The Dog Mentor: General School Risk Assessment

Organisation: Cadmore End CofE School

Date of Assessment: 30th January 2026

Assessed by: Jenny Duckworth

Review Frequency: Yearly, or sooner if significant changes occur

Introduction

This general risk assessment outlines the potential hazards associated with implementing The Dog Mentor programme in the setting. Each risk is detailed using a structured format, including pre- and post-mitigation ratings, mitigation strategies, and contingency plans.

Risk 1: Minor injury to pupil by dog (e.g., scratches)

Risk Description	Could require medical treatment in the setting. May impact the pupil's confidence in future interactions with the dog.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog supervised at all times. Educate pupils and staff on safe behaviour. Limit certain tricks. Claws trimmed regularly. Dog on lead or secure when unsupervised. Use signs/locks if left alone. Exercise away from children. Monitor dog's health. Use double leads for young children.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer minor first aid. Contact parents. Review risk assessment. Debrief staff. Make necessary adjustments.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 2: Serious injury to pupil by dog (e.g., biting)

Risk Description	Would require medical attention and may result in long-term fear of dogs.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous supervision of dog. Only trained handlers interact. Observe dog's signals and remove if agitated.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid as needed. Parents contacted. Risk and incident reviewed. Staff debrief.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 3: Trips, slips or falls not related to the dog

Risk Description	Possible minor injuries requiring first aid.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure clear walkways. Staff supervision. Teach safe movement around the setting.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide first aid. Internal incident review.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 4: Allergic reaction to dog

Risk Description	Includes mild irritation to severe anaphylaxis.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy info collected via consent forms. • Prefer non-shedding dogs. • Medication access ensured. • Welcome pack includes dog info. • Hygiene standards maintained.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove pupil. • Administer treatment and seek medical advice.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 5: Illness transferred from dog (e.g., fleas, worms)

Risk Description	Pupil may become unwell requiring treatment.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog receives regular vaccinations. • Flea/worm treatments up to date.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet support. • Monitor other pupils for symptoms.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 6: Dog excrement in the setting

Risk Description	Hygiene risk and potential for infection.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste cleaned immediately. • Staff trained in hazardous waste removal. • Area disinfected. • Dogs toilet regularly. • Waste disposed externally.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep clean area. • Remove pupils until safe.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 7: General hygiene risks

Risk Description	Spread of germs between dog and humans.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Highly likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing after contact. • Keep dog from eating areas. • Dog cleaned and groomed regularly. • Bedding cleaned weekly.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce hygiene protocol. • Use wipes or gel.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 8: Impact on dog from other animals

Risk Description	Dog may be startled or harmed by other animals.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog always supervised and on lead. • Handler vigilant of surroundings.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dog from threat. • Training reviewed.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 9: Minor injury to dog

Risk Description	Unintentional harm from pupils or environment.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor pupil behaviour. • Use safe routes. • Dog on lead. • Avoid high-risk areas. • Dog-specific first aid kit onsite.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer first aid. • Remove dog or pupil. • Record incident.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 10: Major injury to dog

Risk Description	Severe harm requiring vet attention.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as for minor injury.• Remove from high-risk situations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First aid then vet care.• Full incident review.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 11: General welfare of dog

Risk Description	Overwork could lead to illness or stress.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule regular breaks.• Fresh water always available.• Limit daily workload.• Monitor stress signs.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog rested for longer period.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 12: Noise, barking

Risk Description	Could upset pupils, staff, or visitors.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calm dog with cues.• Use reward-based training.• Seek advice if persistent.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None required unless repeated.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 13: Training risks

Risk Description	Dog overexcited or unresponsive during training.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training overseen by adults.• Pupils shown proper methods.• Stop if dog distressed.• Hand washing after.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End session and assess dog's condition.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 14: Fire drill and evacuation

Risk Description	Dog could be left behind or distressed.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog always supervised.• Handler responsible during evacuation.• Dogs signed in/out.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead dog to safety and log action.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 15: Canine diseases and parasites

Risk Description	Germs could spread to humans.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular vet checks.• No attendance if dog unwell.• Updated vaccinations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforce hygiene.• Exclude dog if needed.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.

Risk 16: Outdoor risks/Forest School

Risk Description	Dog may be injured by firepit, pond, terrain.
Pre-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: High Overall Risk: High
Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep dog on lead.• Avoid firepits.• Avoid steep banks.• Fence area if possible.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove dog if unsafe.• Vet care if injured.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.