

St Katherine's School & Nursery



Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment Focus	The Dog Mentor
Date completed	September 2025
Date due for review	September 2026
Completed by	Sarah Aikenhead

RISK	TO WHO	RISK PROBABILITY L/M/H	ACTION TO REDUCE RISK	NEW RISK PROBABILITY L/M/H
Staff/Children/Parents/Visitors Fear of Dogs	Staff Children Parents	High	<p>Staff members who are fearful of dogs will not support children in their close interactions with The Dog Mentor.</p> <p>Parental consent to be sought for all children, indicating where children may be fearful so adults can support when transitioning around the school. No child shall be forced into interaction with The Dog Mentor if this makes them feel unhappy in anyway.</p> <p>All classes will have a class list of consent given by Parents and allergy list. This information can also be found on Arbor under each child's name.</p> <p>Visitors that may come into contact with The Dog Mentor will be asked with regards to interactions.</p>	Low
Dog Bite/Scratch/Jumping up	Staff Children Parents	High	<p>The Dog Mentor will continue to be trained where needed as he has done from a puppy through puppy socialisation classes and The Dog Mentor course.</p> <p>The Dog Mentor will also be trained to respond to commands, e.g. sit, down and stay, to minimise inappropriate interactions with children and or staff. The Dog Mentor will be taught not to bite/scratch/jump up.</p> <p>The Dog Mentor will be removed from an interaction if they are or become too excited and not calm. Children will learn how to interact correctly with The Dog Mentor. Staff to model positive interaction and handling at all times.</p>	Low
Moving Around the School	Staff Children	Medium	<p>The Dog Mentor will always be with a member of staff when moving around the school. A dog lead will be kept with the adult and the child will hold the orange lead when moving around the school. Sometimes the dog will work within the classroom, small groups or on a 1:1 basis.</p>	Low

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Medical Needs – Allergies	Parents Staff children	Medium	Parental consent letters must be completed with information regarding allergies. The breed chosen is a hypoallergenic breed, Parents will be informed of this. A list of children/staff with allergies and no consent will be referred to by the adult responsible for The Dog Mentor at that time.	Low
Hygiene	Staff Children	Medium	All staff/children to sanitise/wash their hands after interacting with The Dog Mentor. All children to learn good hygiene around The Dog Mentor.	Low
Worms/Fleas	Staff Children	Medium	The Dog Mentor will have regular worm and flea treatments and vet checks. If worms or fleas are suspected, then The Dog Mentor will not be permitted on the school site until this is treated and/or they are cleared by the vet.	Low
Ill Health of The Dog Mentor	Staff Children	Medium	The Dog Mentor will be kept off the school site and taken to the vets for treatment. The Dog Mentor will be cleared by the vets before accessing the school again.	Low
Faeces/Urination	Staff Children	Medium	A specific area is used The Dog Mentor. If the school dog toilets in a different area this will be cleared up immediately and disinfected with a suitable disinfectant for the school environment.	Low
Feeding Times	Staff Children	High	The Dog Mentor may react incorrectly if a child were to interact when it is feeding, therefore The Dog Mentor will be fed before and after children are on site. If The Dog Mentor is feeding, this will be away from children.	Low

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Wellbeing of The Dog Mentor	Key person	Low	Key person (Sarah Aikenhead) will monitor the wellbeing of The Dog Mentor throughout the day and will make the decision on how much interaction will take place.	Low
Needs of The Dog Mentor	Key person	Medium	<p>The Dog Mentor will be kept in a home when not on the school site and will have a quiet base to return to when not interacting with children. The Dog Mentor will continue to be socialised on the school site, for their learning and understanding of their environment as a The Dog Mentor. The owner will monitor The Dog Mentors wellbeing and The Dog Mentor will only engage when calm and positive.</p> <p>Any concerns to be addressed by the vets/dog trainer, if needed.</p>	Low
Incorrect Interaction Between children/staff/parents and The Dog Mentor	Staff Children Parents	Medium	Demonstrations of correct, positive handling. Guidelines on correct handling and interactions shared with staff and children prior to interactions commencing. The Dog Mentor will be removed from the situation if unsafe/not appropriate/risk escalates.	Low
Contact with Food	Staff children	Medium	The Dog Mentor will not be permitted into the hall or classrooms where food is being eaten.	Low

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Walking The Dog Mentor	Staff children	High	<p>Children may be permitted to walk with The Dog Mentor with staff supervision. Staff supporting to model correct handling of The Dog Mentor on its lead and to closely support children when doing this. Staff member to walk The Dog Mentor, if The Dog Mentor is not calm when being walked or child is not walking dog appropriately.</p> <p>Ensure black pouch with poo bags are taken. Black lead for adult to hold and orange lead for child to hold.</p>	Low
Escalating Behaviours of children	Staff children	Medium	<p>Children to interact with The Dog Mentor only when calm, ready and parental consent has been given. If behaviours escalate, The Dog Mentor will be removed and the children will be supported by a member of staff.</p>	Low