



School Dog Risk Assessment

Activity	Identify the hazards	Who/what may be harmed	Likelihood of occurrence	Severity of harm	Overall risk	Existing control measures	Recommendations/further action required
School therapy dog visit	Allergic reactions	Pupils allergic to dogs	Low	Low	Low	Parents provide allergy information; Pupils taught to interact safely with the dog	Ensure all pupils' allergies are known;
	Dog aggression	Pupils, teachers, or therapy dog being bitten	Low	Medium	Low	Therapy dog trained and assessed for temperament; Always supervised by handler	Monitor pupils closely during the visit; Handler to guide interactions
	Tripping over the dog	Pupils, teachers, or dog	Low	Low	Low	Ensure the dog is kept on a leash and under control at all times	Remind pupils to watch where they are walking around the dog
	Overstimulation/misbehaviour	Pupils, the dog, teachers	Low	Low	Low	Set clear guidelines for appropriate behaviour around the dog; Ensure pupils approach calmly and not overwhelm the dog	Monitor and guide student behaviour during the visit
	Contamination from dog waste	Pupils, teachers	Low	Low	Low	Ensure the therapy dog is well-trained for such visits; Handler to clean up any waste immediately	Double-check the area afterward for cleanliness
	Emotional impact	Pupils feeling uncomfortable or fearful around the dog	Low	Low	Low	Allow pupils to observe from a distance if uncomfortable; Offer alternative activities for those not wanting to participate	Provide a safe space for pupils who need a break
	Potential escape of the dog	Dog, pupils, public	Low	Low	Low	Ensure all doors are securely closed; Have additional staff members present to assist with control	Have a designated staff member responsible for checking exits and entrances

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	Inappropriate handling by pupils	Dog, pupils	Low	Low	Low	Provide clear instructions on how to interact with the dog; Monitor interactions closely	Reiterate the importance of gentle and respectful behaviour towards the dog