

**Activity/workplace assessed:** Animals In School - Dog

**Persons consulted/involved in risk assessment:**

**Date:**

**Risk assessment reference number:**

**Review due date:**

Willow the dog is a Bedlington Terrier and Whippet cross breed and is currently a school dog, with the intention of eventually training her to be a therapy dog once she is over 9 months old. Willow is an adorable, caring and well behaved dog and completely people-oriented. Willow is intelligent enough to train easily, hardly sheds, interacts with all staff and students, is very affectionate and her temperament has made her a real asset to the school. Willow is happy running around, showing off tricks, being petted or just hanging around or on your lap.

Although she has only been in the school for a couple of times she has become just as much a part of the family as the teachers, support staff and students at the school. Willow comes into school regularly, supported by her owner the head teacher.

Willow has fitted in beautifully at the school, the pupils and staff really seem to benefit from the fact that Willow visits regularly. Her friendly, calm and gentle personality means she is ideally suited to her role as a school dog. She puts the pupils at ease but they also enjoy the fun and active side to her nature. Willow has shown that she can have a great calming influence on the pupils and has helped with their anxieties and confidence.

To ensure that Willow is a success we as a school involved the governors, staff, parents and pupils in the decision making process and as time has gone on, Willow will eventually be put forward to be assessed as a Therapy Dog with the intention of starting to work more closely with staff and pupils.

The decision to have a dog in school was based on the evidence that there are benefits of having a dog in school. Dogs are fun, they increase pupil's understanding of responsibility and support pupils with managing their feelings and behaviour; by interacting with a dog learns pupils how to better socialise with other pupils. Alongside the impact of a school dog on pupils, research also suggests that interactions with a dog can have benefits for staff too. Research shows that interacting with a dog can moderate stress by reducing the heart rate, lowering blood pressure, and other observable supportive signs of anxiety.

A letter was sent home to parents explaining that Willow would be in the school and for them to respond if they had any concerns and to give permission for the pupils to interact with her.

The Authority's Senior Insurance and Risk Officer has confirmed that Willow is covered by the Authority's Liability Insurance while she is on the school premises. Mrs Martin will insure the dog for when he is not on the school premises to ensure vet bills etc. are covered.

What are the hazards	Who might be harmed	Current controls	Further action required	Who's responsible	Completed
Dog Interaction	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	<p>Interaction with Willow is only allowed when authorised and supervised.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught how to approach Willow.</p> <p>Willow is currently being trained with the intention of making her a Therapy Dog.</p> <p>Current interaction involves taking Willow for a walk or stroking and playing with her. All interactions are on the school premises only.</p> <p>Willow cannot enter any food preparation or serving areas and can only enter classrooms under strict supervision and control.</p> <p>Any pupil or staff interacting inappropriately with Willow will be stopped immediately.</p> <p>Willow has a selection of toys to play with and staff will supervise her to ensure she does not chew anything she is not supposed to.</p> <p>Willow's treats will be locked away and only used under supervision to reward her.</p>	<p>Willow is receiving training.</p> <p>All interaction stops if Willow misbehaves or becomes tired.</p> <p>Everyone interacting, feeding or giving Willow treats must wash their hands before and after the interaction.</p> <p>The school will investigate educational resources from the Dogs Trust, Key Stage to be 'Dog Smart' and the Kennel Club Safe and Sound Resources to continue promoting 'Dog Smart'.</p> <p>All incidents involving Willow are to be recorded.</p>	Headteacher staff	Ongoing

		Once Willow is at the appropriate age Dogs for Therapy will be invited into the school to assess her.			
Animal housing	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	Willow resides in the Headteacher's Office during the day where her dog bed, water and food are all held.  Pupils/staff do not interact with Willow without supervision.  Pupils are instructed to only touch Willow's bed when staff members are present.  No pupils are to be present when Willow is being fed unless under strict supervision.	If Willow is tired and sleeping no one is allowed to disturb/interact with her.  Any pupil or staff feeding Willow treats must wash their hands before and after the interaction.	Headteacher Staff	Ongoing
Dog biting.	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	Willow has been trained not to bite and during the months of her being in school there is no evidence of this.  All pupils, staff and visitors do not interact with Willow without initial supervision.	All interaction with Willow is agreed prior to starting.  This will be monitored and occurrences logged.  Any person subjected to a bite must wash the bitten area immediately.	Headteacher Staff	Ongoing
Jumping up/Scratches/Handling	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	If Willow becomes excited there is a danger that she could jump up and scratch someone, although this is unlikely as she has been trained not to.  Willow's nails are regularly clipped.  Willow is being trained not to jump up with praise/rewards being given when	Willow was chosen as her breed is renowned for their good temperament.  This will be monitored and occurrences logged.  Any person subjected to a scratch must wash the	Staff	Ongoing

		<p>successful.</p> <p>Pupils are instructed in handling Willow safely by the Headteacher before approaching her.</p>	bitten area immediately.		
Running loose.	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	<p>Willow will only be off the lead in the Headteacher's office when resting or being fed.</p> <p>When walked by staff or pupils Willow will be on a lead at all times.</p> <p>Once Willow is sufficiently trained she may be allowed off the lead under supervision of a member of staff.</p>	If Willow becomes loose the Headteacher is to be informed immediately.	Headteacher Staff	Ongoing
Phobia's, fears and anxiety	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	<p>Any person with a phobia should not be forced to participate in any interaction with Willow.</p> <p>Permission for pupils to interact is sought from all parents. This must be updated with new pupils when they arrive in school.</p>	A letter was sent home to parents explaining that Willow would be in the school and for them to respond if they had any concerns and give permission for interaction.(100% of pupils have permission)	Headteacher Staff	
Willow's upkeep.	School	<p>Training costs and assessment will be paid for by Mr Martin.</p> <p>Currently Willow is receiving obedience training.</p> <p>The Authority's Liability Insurance will cover Willow while she is on the schools premises. Willow's private pet insurance will cover Willow when Willow is off site.</p>	There is no set training for Willow to become a Therapy Dog as long as she meets the criteria of the therapy dogs assessment (at 9 months).		

Hygiene and infection	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	<p>Suitable hand washing arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Pupils are instructed not to eat/drink or touch their face before they have washed their hands.</p> <p>Any open wounds (scratches and abrasions) are covered using suitable dressings.</p> <p>Soiled materials bedding/litter etc. is double bagged and disposed of.</p> <p>No food or drink to be consumed when interacting with Willow.</p>	Ongoing checks to ensure this is adhered to at all times.	Headteacher Staff	Ongoing
Animal health, diseases and parasites.	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	<p>Willow has been purchased from a reputable dealer.</p> <p>Willow will not come into contact with wild animals such as rodents thus reducing the likelihood of transmission of diseases.</p> <p>If Willow is unwell she will not be attending school.</p> <p>If Willow becomes unwell in school she is to be returned to the Headteacher immediately. The headteacher will seek veterinary attention as appropriate.</p>	Site staff to complete checks to ensure as much as possible that the site is free from rodents.	Headteacher Caretaker	Ongoing
Allergies	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	Appropriate control measures are implemented for pupils or staff with known allergies. Pupils or staff with allergies to animals will not come in	Parents have been written to about Willow being in the school and asked to raise any concerns.	Headteacher	Ongoing

		<p>contact with Willow.</p> <p>Staff are familiar with the symptoms of an allergic reaction.</p> <p>People believed to be suffering an allergic reaction are removed from the vicinity of Willow.</p> <p>If a person is believed to be suffering breathing difficulties as a result of an allergic reaction, person to be escorted to another area away from the allergen and regular first aid procedures to be implemented</p> <p>In the case of milder allergic reactions it is recommended that the affected area is washed and parents notified as per normal arrangements.</p>			
Faeces, transferral of germs	Staff, Pupils, Visitors, Gardeners.	<p>Mrs Marin will have a lead and dog bags and will be responsible for picking up any faeces left by Willow.</p> <p>Willow will be toileted in an area outside the playing area.</p> <p>If a pupil finds faeces on the school grounds they are to report it to a member of staff although this is unlikely as Willow will be supervised at all times.</p>	This will be monitored.	Headteacher Staff	Ongoing
Worms/fleas transferred to humans	Staff, Pupils, Visitors	Willow will be treated for worms and fleas at the appointed time recommended by a vet.		Headteacher	
School events	Staff, Pupils,	Willow will attend school events if they	Willow will be removed	Headteacher	Ongoing

	Visitors	are appropriate and she is under supervision.	from the event if she gets over excited or tired.	Staff	
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<b>Assessment completed by :</b>	Susan Martin
<b>Position:</b>	Headteacher
<b>Assessment review date:</b>	As necessary
<b>Approved date:</b> 13/5/21	<b>Head Teacher:</b> Susan Martin <b>Signature:</b> <i>S E Martin</i>

\* **N.B:** Residual risk rating relates to the risk level after appropriate control measures have been implemented, this should therefore be lower than the initial risk rating e.g. Medium or Low. The Residual Risk Rating is classed as Low.

### Action Plan

Where the risk assessment has identified further actions please complete the table below:

<b>Actions (please add additional rows for all actions required)</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>
Assessed as a Therapy Dog	9 months of age	TBC	Headteacher

### Revision Hertory

It is recommended that ther assessment is reviewed following significant change or at least every two years.

<b>Review date</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Next review date</b>