

The Dog Mentor: General School Risk Assessment

Organisation: Clyro CiW Primary School

Date of Assessment: 11th March 2026

Assessed by: Jenny Sleath

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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Ensure clear walkways. • Staff supervision. • Teach safe movement around the setting.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Dog receives regular vaccinations. • Flea/worm treatments up to date.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Dog always supervised and on lead. • Handler vigilant of surroundings.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Same as for minor injury. • Remove from high-risk situations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: High Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Calm dog with cues. • Use reward-based training. • Seek advice if persistent.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Unlikely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Low
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• 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	• Dog always supervised. • Handler responsible during evacuation. • Dogs signed in/out.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Medium Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	• 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	• Regular vet checks. • No attendance if dog unwell. • Updated vaccinations.
Post-Mitigation Rating	Likelihood: Likely Severity: Low Overall Risk: Medium
Contingency Plan	• 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	• 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	• Remove dog if unsafe. • Vet care if injured.
Review Notes	To be reviewed annually or if incidents or major changes occur.
