

## The Dog Mentor: General School Risk Assessment

Organisation: South Farnborough Junior School

Date of Assessment: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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#### Risk 4: Allergic reaction to dog

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

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

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

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### Risk 6: Dog excrement in the setting

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

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### Risk 7: General hygiene risks

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

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### Risk 8: Impact on dog from other animals

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

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### Risk 9: Minor injury to dog

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

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### Risk 10: Major injury to dog

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

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### Risk 11: General welfare of dog

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

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## Risk 12: Noise, barking

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

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## Risk 13: Training risks

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

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### Risk 14: Fire drill and evacuation

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

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### Risk 15: Canine diseases and parasites

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

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## Risk 16: Outdoor risks

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

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