Activity/ Situation	SCHOOL DOG			
Location	St Paul's C of E Primary School			
Persons at Risk	Pupils ☒	Employees ☒	Visitors ☒	Contractors ☐
HAZARD(S)	*Note: this list is not exhaustive and **must** be adapted for your own needs* ☐ Allergies ☐ Trip Hazard ☐ Phobia of Dogs/Animals			

CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	YES	NO	N/A
General				
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises unsupervised. The dog will work with children on a 1:1 basis or in very small groups and will be slowly introduced to more children. Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. During the school day the dog will always be on a lead when she is out of the SLT office, except when she is undergoing structured training with her primary trainer or is supervised in an enclosed area. The dog will mainly be working in the SLT office, Hub or Library and therefore will never be around all children. If the dog is over excited it will be taken for a break and given time to calm down in the SLT office.	☒	☐	☐
Children's understanding of how to behave around a dog	Children will meet the dog in a group of no more than six children, following 'approach, ask, pet, goodbye'. Pupils working with the dog will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. The dog will work with children on a 1:1 basis or in very small groups and will be slowly introduced to more children. Education of this nature will continually be given to children working with the dog, specific workshops from outside professionals, including the Blue Cross / Dog Trust, in class time and PSHE lessons. Pupils will be taught what to do to around the dog (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies –'standing tall like a tree').	☒	☐	☐

Dogs behaviour in general	The dog will be trained not to jump up or bite and has been through training. Miss Waite and Coco have taken part in formal training with an experienced dog trainer. All staff will have been introduced to the dog and the expectations. Dogs express their feelings through their body language. Growling or bearing of teeth indicate that the dog is feeling angry or threatened. Flattened ears, tail lowered or between their legs, hiding behind their owner, whining or growling are signs that the dog is frightened or nervous. If the dog is displaying any of these warning signs it should be immediately removed from that particular situation or environment. Should a bite occur (even playfully): 1. Parents will be contacted immediately. 2. The wound will be cleaned and covered with a sterile, non-sticky dressing. 3. The child/adult will be released for medical attention. 4. All staff will be informed. 5. A full investigation will take place. 6. The suitability of having a dog in school will be reassessed by the Headteacher/Chair of Governors.	☒	☐	☐
Scratch from dog claws	The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure her claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed.	☒	☐	☐
Keeping safe when dog walking.	A member of staff will always have the school dog on the lead and have responsibility to ensure that they have control of her. Children, in very small groups, may walk with the school dog with a member of staff. The member of staff will always hold the lead. Children are supervised at all times by the member of staff. (Permission to walk offsite would always be gained from parents/carers beforehand). The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will remind children of the importance of washing hands.	☒	☐	☐
Tripping over the dog – trip hazard	All members of school community to be vigilant to look where they are walking to avoid tripping over the dog. The dog to be on a short lead when walking around school with a member of staff.	☒	☐	☐
Dog welfare – Tiredness		☒	☐	☐

	The dog's bed is big enough for her to be happy and safe if she needs to be restrained for a short period of the day. The door to the office will be shut if the dog needs to be kept away.			
Loose Dog	If the dog does get loose from the SLT office the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in the office. There are five members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if it needs attention at any other time, they are: 1. Miss Waite 2. Mrs King 3. Mrs Hughes 4. Miss McEnaney 5. Mrs Evans The dog will mainly be working in the SLT office, Hub or Library and therefore will be with an adult when moving around.	☒	☐	☐
Dog hair causing allergies	The school dog is a Cockapoo, which is a low moulting breed to reduce the chance of an allergic reaction. Parents will be asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the SLT team/teachers and office staff. Staff members have also been asked to inform the SLT Team of any allergies. Fully supervised, children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Wounds on exposed skin will be covered. Flea treatment will be carried out at monthly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals.	☒	☐	☐
Risk of food contamination/disease/germs from the dog	If the dog is sick she will not come into school until she is better. The dog will never go into a food preparation area and/ or the kitchen. Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in the main external bins, not in an internal bin. Poo bags will be carried by the staff member walking the dog. All immunisations will be kept up-to-date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and a register of this is kept by Miss Waite.	☒	☐	☐
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	The dog is the financial responsibility of Miss Waite. She is financially responsible for all her care and day-to-day costs. The dog is the responsibility of Miss Waite outside of school hours.	☒	☐	☐

Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog	The school has already ensured the insurance are happy with a dog on site. Miss Waite will insure the dog's medical needs. Liability insurance will be held and will be renewed annually. The certificates are kept in the school office.	☒	☐	☐
Fire Alarm	Dog signed in as a member of staff so fire wardens know when she is onsite.	☒	☐	☐
Noise / Barking	Cockapoo's are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children. The dog has been introduced to children from birth so is used to a noisy environment, therefore reducing the chance of barking. If the dog barks and is too noisy or too distracting she will stay in the SLT office.	☒	☐	☐
Dog Phobia	Parents will be asked to inform the school if their child is scared to be in close contact with the dog. Parents will be offered support for child to help overcome aversion. Parents also offered the option of their child having no close contact. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the office staff. Visitors will be advised that a dog is in the office and removed if requested. Notice in school entrance and noted on school website.	☒	☐	☐

Have you consulted with the people/representatives undertaking the activity as part of the preparation of this risk assessment	**Yes ☒**	**No ☐**	
What is the level of risk for this activity/situation with existing control measures	**High ☐**	**Med ☐**	**Low ☒**
Is the risk adequately controlled with existing control measures	**Yes ☒**	**No ☐**	
Have you identified any further control measures needed to control the risk and recorded them in the action plan	**Yes ☐**	**No ☒**	

ACTION PLAN (insert additional rows if required)	**To be actioned by**	
Further control measures to reduce risks *so far as is reasonably practicable*	**Name**	**Date**

State overall risk level assigned to the task **AFTER** implementation of control and action plan measures taken as a result of this risk assessment	**High ☐**	**Med ☐**	**Low ☒**
Is such a risk level deemed to be as low as reasonably practical?	**Yes ☒**	**No ☐**	
Is activity still acceptable with this level of risk?	**Yes ☒**	**No ☐**	
If no, has this been escalated to senior leadership team?	**Yes ☒**	**No ☐**	

Assessor(s): **Position(s):**	**C.Clarke** **Headteacher**	**Signature(s):**	Governors FGB
Date:	**September 2025**	**Review Date:**	**September 2026**

Distribution: All Staff and External Coaches

	Risk rating	*Action*
	HIGH	**Urgently review/add controls & monitor, notify H&S Team (if Likely or Highly Likely – stop work, seek competent advice)**
	MEDIUM	**Review/add controls (as far as reasonably practicable) & monitor**
	LOW	**Monitor control measures**

POTENTIAL OUTCOME

Catastrophic	Fatal injury/permanent disability
Major	RIDDOR reportable Specified Injury/ Disease/Dangerous Occurrence
Moderate	RIDDOR reportable over 7 day injury
Minor	Minor injury (requiring first aid)
Insignificant	Minor injury

LIKELIHOOD

Highly likely	More likely to occur
Likely	
Possible	
Unlikely	
Remote	Less likely to occur

POTENTIAL OUTCOME

	Remote	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Highly Likely
Catastrophic					
Major					
Moderate					
Minor					
Insignificant					

LIKELIHOOD