

**Dogs in school risk assessment**  
**St Joseph's RC Primary School and Nursery**



| Hazard                        | Who is affected/at risk    | Risk rating | Actions/control measures   | Person responsible                                       |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Bites and scratches           | Staff, pupils and handlers | Low         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog must have a good temperament and be used to being around children – to be trained appropriately</li> <li>• Dog must be well trained not to bite, scratch or jump</li> <li>• Handler/trained staff will remain with dog at all times</li> <li>• Children are taught how to approach and interact with the dog</li> </ul> | Mrs Francis/<br>Designated trained school staff          |
| Poor hygiene and health risks | Staff, pupils and handlers | Low         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog is vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas</li> <li>• Dog groomed regularly</li> <li>• All staff and pupils are required to wash their hands after contact with the dog</li> </ul>   | Mrs Francis<br><br>Mrs Francis<br>All staff and children |

|           |                  |     |   |  |
|-----------|------------------|-----|---|--|
|           |                  |     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handler/trained staff clear up urine and feces promptly and dispose of this safely in a designated outside container- safely away from children's areas</li> <li>• The dog is not permitted anywhere near food preparation areas</li> </ul>                          | <p>Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff</p> <p>Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff</p>                                  |
| Allergies | Staff and pupils | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We seek parental permission for children to interact with the dog</li> <li>• Pupils with allergies will not be in contact with the dog</li> <li>• We will ensure the breed of dog is suitable for allergy sufferers – hypo allergenic – that doesn't shed</li> </ul> | Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff  |
| Phobias   | Staff and pupils | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parents sign home school agreement which includes information about the school dog consenting to either contact or no contact</li> <li>• Contact with the school dog is optional</li> <li>• Training will be offered to families who may have</li> </ul>         | <p>Administration team to compile a list of contact and no contact and make all staff aware</p> <p>Designated trained school staff</p> |

|  |                                |        |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------|--------|---|---|
|  |                                |        | nervous children to alleviate anxiety   |   |
| Activities and games involving the dog                           | Staff, pupils, dog and handler | Low    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handler/designated trained staff remain with dog at all times</li> <li>• Set a limit for the number of children who can interact with the dog at one time (maximum 3)</li> <li>• Designated staff clean up urine and faeces</li> <li>• School staff remove children who misbehave or upset the dog</li> <li>• We set a limit on activities, so the dog does not get tired</li> </ul> | Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff |
| Children misbehaving   | Pupils, dog and handler        | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave</li> <li>• School staff are present at all times during contact with the dog</li> <li>• School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset the dog</li> </ul>  |   |
| Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site | Dog, staff and pupils          | Low    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog remains on a lead when walking around the school</li> </ul>  | Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff |

|  |                       |  |  |   |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|
|  |                       |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog is kept in a secure room</li> </ul>   |   |
| Stress and over stimulation to the dog | Dog, staff and pupils |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog to have regular breaks and a quiet area to rest- without any children</li> <li>• Dog walker attends daily to take dog offsite for exercise</li> </ul> | Mrs Francis/Designated trained school staff |

**Risk assessment to be reviewed annually – January 2026**

**Signed:** H Francis

**January 2026**