



# Barnett Wood Infant School

<b>Site</b>	Barnett Wood Infant School	<b>Assessed by</b>	Anne Gibbard	<b>Date of assessment</b>	September 2025	<b>Date of Review</b>	July 2026
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Risk Assessment – Dogs at School</b>						

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who may be affected and how they may be affected</b>	<b>Assessment of risk</b>	<b>Control Measures/ Precautions taken</b>	<b>Are existing controls adequate? Y/N</b>	<b>Person/s responsible</b>
Hygiene - Handling the animals	Staff and children	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>After handling the dogs make sure the children and staff all wash their hands.</li><li>Hand sanitiser should not be used a substitute for handwashing with soap and water.</li><li>Establish routines and procedures to teach the children about good hygiene habits around animals such as washing hands and avoiding the dog's mouth area.</li></ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King
Hygiene - Dog foul in playground  Contact with other children/staff	Staff and children	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dog to be taken out for walk before coming to site. Dog to be offered suitable toileting on grass in car park away from children.</li><li>Any foul to be appropriately cleaned away.</li></ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King

Hygiene - Parasites	Staff and children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After handling the dogs make sure the children and staff all wash their hands.</li> <li>Hand sanitiser should not be used a substitute for handwashing with soap and water.</li> <li>Establish routines and procedures to teach the children about good hygiene habits around animals such as washing hands and avoiding the dog's mouth area.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King
Scratches	Staff, pupils and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dog will be always supervised when in contact with children and staff. Handler to be sensitive and vigilant to the children's and dog's responses around each other. One adult with the dog and at least one adult with the children if there are more than 2 children.</li> <li>Children taught how to behave and to approach dog safely.</li> <li>Children to only pat the dog when he is stood or sat still.</li> <li>Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction, rules to be re-enforced by all staff.</li> <li>The dog's claws will be kept trimmed.</li> <li>The dog is trained to not jump up and to remain calm.</li> <li>Appointed members of staff involved are experienced dog owners and handlers.</li> <li>Dog will be kept on the lead whilst walking around the school grounds.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King

Dog bite	Staff and children	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable public liability insurance policy is in place for the dog which would be used in the event of a claim.</li> <li>• Handlers are trained in working with children and are familiar with the dog.</li> <li>• Children are taught how to approach the dog safely.</li> <li>• Children to be taught the rules of safe animal interaction, rules to be re-enforced by all staff.</li> <li>• Dog's temperament has been externally assessed.</li> <li>• Staff to always supervise the dog and keep it on a lead when moving around the school.</li> <li>• Only small groups of children to be with the dog at any one time. Children taught where to appropriately pat the dog.</li> <li>• Handler or member of staff to say 'no' firmly, if mouth contact looks likely or if a change in mood is detected in the dog.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King
Allergy or Asthmatic reaction	Staff and children	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental consent form issued for pupils who have close, regular contact with the dog.</li> <li>• All parents will be notified about the school dog and given the opportunity to advise of their child's allergies. Medical records used to check pupils identified as having an allergy and not to have contact with dog.</li> <li>• Dog bedding regularly washed.</li> <li>• Good hygiene routines and hand washing to be followed by all who meet the dog.</li> <li>• Days when dog is in school to be circulated.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King

Phobias	Staff and pupils	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental consent form to be issued for pupils to have close contact with dog.</li> <li>Dog is gentle, well trained and registered as a therapy dog, therefore externally assessed as being suitable to be around children.</li> <li>Visitors advised and dog removed if necessary to a suitable alternative room. If an issue is pre-determined dog will not come into school that day.</li> <li>Where there is an identified phobia/anxiety the dog is not banned from coming to school, but every effort is made to segregate the dog from the people with phobias/ anxiety.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handler(s) remain with dogs at all times</li> <li>Handler(s) speak to school staff in advance and make sure the area and activity is safe</li> <li>We check with the handler(s) and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once</li> <li>Handler(s) clean up urine and faeces</li> <li>School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</li> <li>We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / handler Sue King
Children misbehaving	Pupils, dogs and handlers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave – clear expectations</li> <li>Dog owner/PAT volunteer must have control of the dog at all times and dog is kept on lead</li> <li>School staff are present at all time during the visit</li> <li>School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / Support Staff accompanying child to reading session / dog handler Sue King

Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs remain on a lead at all times</li> <li>• Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors /gates</li> <li>• Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary</li> <li>• Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard
Animal Welfare	The dog, staff and children		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dog has time away from the children undisturbed.</li> <li>• The dog only works with the children in short bursts.</li> <li>• The dog is not in school full-time.</li> <li>• The dog does not come to school in very hot weather.</li> <li>• The dog's welfare is monitored by the owner and staff.</li> </ul>	Y	Anne Gibbard / dog owner Sue King