

General Risk Assessment Form

Risk assessment carried out by – C Dixon	Job title – Assistant SENDCo	Date of assessment – November 2020
Review interval - Annually	Date reviews carried out -	

Persons covered by this assessment – All staff, students, and visitors at Tanfield School	Activities involved – Introducing Oakleigh, fully supervised, to students to aid stimulation and communication.
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Introduction:

The value of pet “therapy” is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of young people and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. To have a pet that young people could interact with can also be of benefit to their social and emotional development.

To minimise the risk to young people in Tanfield School, when animals are allowed on the premises, the animal’s owner and handlers must ensure that the animal is not a nuisance and that it does not interfere with the environment.

It is a requirement of all animals that they are within the following recommended guidelines:

- All animals should be regularly groomed and checked for signs of infection or other illness
- Pets that are ill should be diagnosed and treated by a vet and should not be allowed on the premises until their health is restored
- All animals should have received relevant inoculations
- All animals should be wormed regularly every six months
- Claws should be kept trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches
- Pets should have their coat cleaned regularly

The dog owner/handler has the responsibility to ensure that:

- Dogs are physically fit before visiting Tanfield School
- The dog is discouraged from jumping, scratching and licking
- The dog is of an acceptable hygienic standard i.e. not wet, muddy etc

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- Natural relief for dogs is taken in account prior to and during the visit

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all young people but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits.

This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the Senior Leadership Team will evaluate the impact of a Tanfield School dog on a regular basis.

RISK RATING		Likelihood		
		Probable Occurs repeatedly, to be expected or could affect large number of people	Possible Could occur sometime or effect a few people	Remote Unlikely to occur or not many people to be affected
Impact	Major Major injury, permanent disability or ill-health	High	High	Medium
	Severe Injury requiring medical treatment	High	Medium	Low
	Minor First aid treatment	Medium	Low	Low

Hazards / issue	Risk rating H/M/L (before)	Controls already in place	Further Action required	Risk Rating H/M/L (after)	By Whom & When
General	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh will always be under the supervision of a responsible adult. Oakleigh will be kept on a lead at all times whilst on the school site. Students will never be left alone with Oakleigh, no matter how brief a duration. Students will not feed Oakleigh. Students will not consume food near Oakleigh. Students are reminded of the importance of washing their hands after contact with Oakleigh, and given suitable opportunity to do this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh has started the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme. Investigation into registering for the Pets as Therapy scheme to take place. 	L	CDO/SJO Spring 2021
Being knocked to ground	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh will always be under the supervision of a responsible adult. Oakleigh will be trained not to jump up at people. Oakleigh will undergo conditioning to the classroom environment in a calming/therapeutic manner. All staff have been introduced to Oakleigh and the expectations (dos and don'ts) of having a therapy dog. 		L	Ongoing

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Hazards / issue	Risk rating H/M/L (before)	Controls already in place	Further Action required	Risk Rating H/M/L (after)	By Whom & When
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh is a small breed renowned for having a good temperament. 			
Being scratched by Oakleigh	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh will always be under the supervision of a responsible adult. Oakleigh will be trained not to jump up at people. Oakleigh will undergo conditioning to the classroom environment in a calming/therapeutic manner. Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce with maturity. All staff have been introduced to Oakleigh and the expectations (dos and don'ts) of having a therapy dog. Oakleigh will attend the vets regularly to make sure her claws are kept short. Oakleigh is a small breed renowned for having a good temperament. 		L	Ongoing
Being bitten by Oakleigh	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh will always be under the supervision of a responsible adult. Oakleigh will be trained not to jump up or mouth at people. Oakleigh will undergo conditioning to the classroom environment in a calming/therapeutic manner. Risk of scratching and mouthing will reduce with maturity. All staff have been introduced to Oakleigh and the expectations (dos and don'ts) of having a therapy dog. Oakleigh is a small breed renowned for having a good temperament. 		L	Ongoing

Hazards / issue	Risk rating H/M/L (before)	Controls already in place	Further Action required	Risk Rating H/M/L (after)	By Whom & When
Allergic reactions	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and parents/carers have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies. Supervising staff monitor for allergic reactions and understand the procedures in responding to an allergic reaction. Oakleigh's coat is hypoallergenic and is less likely to cause an allergic reaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh is bathed every two weeks (or more often if needed). Oakleigh visits the groomers for a wash and cut every 12 weeks. 	L	Ongoing
Contracting diseases that can be carried by dogs	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh is regularly taken off the school site to defecate. It is picked up and disposed of in a safe manner. All immunisations are kept up to date. Flea treatment is carried out at 6-weekly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European vet guidelines, at 6-monthly intervals. 		L	Ongoing
Financial costs	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh is the responsibility of Caroline Dixon. Caroline is financially responsible for all Oakleigh's care and day-to-day costs. 		L	Ongoing
Insurance requirements	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caroline Dixon has adequate insurance against Oakleigh. 		L	Ongoing

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