



### Dogs in School Risk Assessment

Location	Berewood Primary School
Assessment Date	12/12/2025
Activity	Keeping a dog onsite/Wellbeing dog
Who is at risk?	Employees, Visitors, Contractors, Vulnerable persons, Pupils
Name of School Dog	Nala
Owner of School Dog	Sally Nelson

Hazard	Who is affected/At risk	Risk Rating (L,M,H)	Actions/Control Measures	Person Responsible
Bites, scratches or illness caused by the dog	Staff, pupils, visitors, handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas</li> <li>• Dogs are groomed before the visit</li> <li>• All staff and pupils should wash their hands after contact with dogs</li> <li>• Handler(s) clear up dog faeces promptly and dispose of this safely – pupils are told to stay away</li> <li>• In the unfortunate event that someone should get bitten, the person must be taken to the first aid station to have the affected area cleaned and the appropriate first aid measures taken.</li> <li>• If the person bitten or scratched is a child then their parents must be informed immediately. The child and any children who witnessed the incident must be reassured and the situation explained; why the dog reacted in the way they did to allay any fears that could develop from their experience of the incident.</li> <li>• With respect to school dogs, the school or overall owner of the dog will need to have public liability insurance (also known as third party insurance) to cover unfortunate events when the dog bites or damages the third party's property. This is through Pet Business Insurance for up to one million pound.</li> </ul>	Headteacher



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child has an open injury, whether caused by the dog or by other means, the dog handler must ensure the dog does not lick the open wound. Similarly, children must be taught not to allow the dog to lick the open wound either.</li> <li>• Children do not go near the dog's face or try and hug it.</li> <li>• Children must ask the handler's permission before touching the dog.</li> </ul>	
Allergies	Staff and pupils	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We inform parents about children interacting with dogs. Website, newsletters, letters</li> <li>• Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies</li> <li>• Control measures need to be enforced if there are staff and children who have suffer from allergic reactions caused by dogs. (e.g. restricting the dogs movements to certain areas around the site to prevent contact) Only authorised dogs are allowed on site.</li> <li>• Ensure parents are aware that the school has a dog and ask parents to inform the school of any allergies their children might have, if they haven't already declared it.</li> <li>• Ensure adrenaline (e.g. epinephrine, EpiPens or Anapens) inhalers, and other medication is readily availability in medical room and that it is up to date.</li> <li>• Contact with dogs is optional.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Phobias	Staff and pupils	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We tell parents and children about the the school dog in advance.</li> <li>• Contact with dogs is optional</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<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> </ul>	Headteacher



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handler(s), so dogs do not get tired</li> </ul>	
Inappropriate behaviour of children around dog(s)	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are told in advance what to expect and how to behave</li> <li>• Go through expectations each term in assembly or in classes and with new starters.</li> <li>• School staff are present at all time</li> <li>• School staff are ready to remove children who misbehave or upset dogs</li> <li>• All children upon starting at the school and regularly throughout the year, must be told how to behave around the authorised dog.</li> <li>• Children must be free to ask questions so they become more confident around dogs and accustomed to having a dog at school.</li> <li>• Children who are particularly fearful of dogs and unwilling to overcome their fear must have their wishes respected and given appropriate space. The handler(s) must not dismiss the child's dislike/fear to prevent the child from hitting/kicking the dog, which might cause the dog to react defensively and possibly bite the child.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs are placed on a lead when necessary</li> <li>• Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors or safety gates</li> <li>• Handler(s) bring suitable toys</li> <li>• Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Inexperienced/improper handling of the dog	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only confident and experienced staff should handle the dog or be present to supervise any children petting the dog.</li> <li>• All staff to receive some basic, informal training on handling a dog, correct behaviour around the dog etc.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Dog faeces (Toxicariasis) and vomit	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog faeces must be collected immediately afterward the dog has finished in an appropriate manner (e.g. the use of a doggy bag) and only collected by the accompanying adult handler.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Over excited dog or jumping up	Pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<p>Authorised dogs must be handled by a confident and able handler. If the dog is over excited or keeps jumping up the dog must be removed from the situation and taken somewhere to calm down.</p>	Headteacher



Dog's adverse reaction to loud noises (e.g. fire alarm)	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorised dog(s) who come on to site regularly should be familiarised to common loud noises/sounds found a school (e.g. noisy children at playtime, musical instruments, fire alarm)</li> <li>• In the event of a fire evacuation the designated responsible handler, who should also be confident and able, must escort the dog from the site along with everyone else.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Not identifying the dog's negative mood	Staff, pupils, dogs and handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The authorised dog must be accompanied at all times by a confident and able handler who is experienced to recognise the difference in dog moods.</li> <li>• If the dog is demonstrating negative moods then the dog must be removed from the adults and children and put in a safe and familiar location to the dog so the dog can calm down.</li> </ul>	Headteacher
Other dogs at the gate	Staff, pupils, dogs and other handlers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog to remain on lead when at the gate</li> </ul>	Headteacher

Handler	Sally Nelson	Signed	<i>S. Nelson</i>
Head teacher	Megan Carter	Signed	<i>M. Carter</i>
Chair of Governors	Charlie Corp	Signed	<i>C. Corp</i>
Reviewed by Breeder	P.Hughes		
Date of Review	12.12.2025		