

TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

Risk Assessment

Area: School Dog – Bailey

Reference: RA107

Information resources:

Marsh insurance broking and innovative risk management solutions

Various School Dog Risk Assessments

People Hazards Section

Categories of people who are at greater risk.

Assessment completed:
September-2023

Date of Review:
September-2024

Premises and Utility Hazards Section

Premises hazards are related to the building itself where the design or structure creates a risk.

Tasks & Activities Hazards Section

Hazards Section

Tasks & activities that could cause harm and present a risk.

Town Close School		
Area: Whole School	Assessed by: Anna Linsmith	Issue 3
Reference: RA107 School Dog – Bailey	Reviewed by: Jamie Billman	Assessment Date: 19/09/23

Introduction:

Town Close School (in the summer 2019) purchased their first school dog to work with children in the school, particularly the Learning Support Department. 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 children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding. Bella, the first School dog, left in in 2022 to work elsewhere.

In September 2023, Town Close recruited a new member of staff whose dog, Bailey, was a school dog in his previous School. With the recruitment of this member of staff we are therefore able to welcome Bailey as our second School dog.

The benefits of having a school dog are:

- To have a pet that the children can interact with, and which can be of benefit to the children’s social and emotional development. This will be available to all children who wish to interact with Bailey, for those who do not feel comfortable doing so, there will be no compulsion to spend time with him.
- An animal in the staff common room is likely to have a positive impact on staff moral.

Any parent who does not want their child to interact with Bailey are invited to write to Mr Wilson and inform him of their wishes.

The risk assessment below is a ‘live’ working document, which will be developed as the school and handler learn more about Bailey, and the interactions between him and the children. The risk assessment will be reviewed on an annual basis or when required.

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Hazard	Hazardous event	Who is at risk	Risk Control Measures			
			What is to be done	Who is to do it	When is it to be done	Where is the supporting documentation located
Physical Hazards						
A.1. Dog	Personal Injury	All/ Dog	1.1. Bailey will be fully vaccinated, including rabies. 1.2. Bailey will not be brought to school if he is unwell. 1.3. Bailey will complete regular health checks and have any necessary treatments. 1.4. Bailey will be fully insured under pet insurance and covered within the school's public liability insurance. 1.5. Bailey's breed has been specifically chosen due to the temperament and limited shedding. See C.1. For information on allergic reactions. 1.6. The dog is fundamentally always supervised by an adult. 1.7. The dog is based in Jamie Billman's classroom and is given time to familiarise himself with each location he will be regularly using. 1.8. First aiders on site.	Handler Handler Handler Handler/ Bursary Breeder/ Handler/ Bursary Handler Handler	Prior to arrival at school When required Ongoing when required Ongoing Prior research Completed Handler Handler	Handler records will stay with Bailey. Pet plan insurance records Bursary records NA.
A.2. School Grounds	Personal injury	All users	2.1. To ensure there are 'safe' spaces for those who do not wish to interact with the dog there are a number of exclusion zones. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket field or front lawn to ensure there is an area children can be assured Bailey will not visit. The dining hall Food preparation areas Poolside or the pool changing rooms. 2.2. Bailey will use a specific area for toileting, this will be decided in due course when he is on site.	Handler	Always	NA

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			2.3. This area will be disinfected regularly.	Handler	Always	NA
				Grounds staff	Regularly or when required	NA
A.3.Cars/ Traffic	Traffic accident	Dog and Car passengers	3.1 Bailey will remain on a lead at all times when moving around the grounds.	Handler	Always	NA
A.4. Hygiene	Dog defecation	All	4.1. Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way.	Handler	When required	NA
			4.2. Bailey will be trained to toilet in an area of the grounds that children have limited access to. The area will be disinfected as required.	Handler	Always	NA
			4.3. All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with the European Pet Passport Scheme and a record will be kept of this.	Handler	When required	NA
			4.4. Flea treatment is carried out at 4 week intervals.	Handler	When required	NA
			4.5. Bailey will be groomed regularly to reduce any hair or dander.	Handler	When required	NA
			4.6. The dog will not be allowed in the school dining hall at meal times; and never in the food preparation area.	Handler	Always	NA
			4.7. Bailey will never go into the pool changing rooms or onto poolside itself as chlorine does not defend against Cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium can be carried by dogs.	Handler	Always	NA

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Tasks & Activities						
B.1. School dog duties	Poor health of dog/ over stimulated	Bailey	1.1. Bailey will remain with his handler or a member of Town Close staff at all times. 1.2. A rota will be devised for Bailey’s time to ensure he has ample rest periods throughout the day. 1.3. Bailey’s remit is to do the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a therapeutic release for children who are hurt, upset, in need of comfort etc. • Be used as a reward for children who have worked hard • To be used as an incentive for children with more challenging behaviour • Increase staff well being • Potential in the future for listening to children read and used in whole class teaching 1.4. Bailey will be provided a safe space in Jamie Billman’s classroom where he can rest. 1.5. Bailey will have been trained to ensure he knows to use this space as his safe space. 1.6. Signage will be displayed for children on the door of the classroom when Bailey is resting or eating. 1.7. There cannot be any interaction with the school dog without authorisation.	Handler Handler Bailey Handler Training provider/ Handler Handler Handler	Always Prior to arrival onsite Always Prior to arrival onsite Prior to arrival onsite When required Always	
B.2. Dog behaviour	Poor behaviour by dog	Children/ Staff	2.1 Bailey was chosen specifically for his temperament. 2.2 The breed (Miniature Dachshund) appropriate to be with children has been selected for its overall suitability for this purpose.	Trainer/ Breeder	Prior to arrival onsite	

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			<p>2.3 The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to roam freely around the school premises.</p> <p>2.4 Bailey undertook a Behaviour Assessment prior to starting in the school.</p> <p>2.5 We have received a ‘character’ reference from Bailey’s doggy daycare.</p>	<p>Handler</p> <p>Handler</p> <p>Doggie Daycare</p>	<p>Always</p>	
B.3. First aid	Dog bite	All	<p>3.1. See First Aid Policy for full details on dealing with First Aid.</p> <p>3.2. The level of training Bailey has received makes a dog bite a low risk.</p>	<p>Qualified staff</p>	<p>Always</p>	
B.4. Child behaviour around dog	Overexcited children		<p>4.1. Children will not be left unsupervised with the dog.</p> <p>4.2. Pupils have been and will continue to be taught about the consequences of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to the whole school through assemblies and other group sessions. The below messages will be communicated:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children must not let Bailey lick their faces • Children must not wake Bailey if he is asleep • Bailey must not be fed human food • Children should not put their faces too close to Bailey’s • Children should walk and play calmly when Bailey is present • Children must wash their hands after contact with Bailey <p>4.3. The dog will also undergo conditioning to the school classroom environment, and he will be introduced slowly to the children in small groups.</p>	<p>Handler</p> <p>Handler/ Pupils</p> <p>Handler</p>	<p>Always</p> <p>Always</p> <p>Always</p>	

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People Hazards						
C.1. Allergic reaction	Individual developing an allergy	Any	1.1. Bailey's breed was selected for a number of factors, one being that he is short haired. 1.2. Parents and staff are asked to inform the school of any pre-existing allergies when communication relating to Bailey is sent out. 1.3. If staff or pupils experience any medical issues that may have resulted from contact with Bailey they should make the school aware. 1.4. Trained first aiders are onsite at all times to deal with medical emergencies.	SMT Head Staff/ Parents SMT	Prior to dog arrival Ongoing review At the beginning each academic year Always	Breeders information held on file Copies of all letters held on file Medical records Training records in Bursary
C.2. Visitors	Reaction or fear	Visitors	2.1. Visitors to the school will be made aware that a school dog is onsite via signage at point of sign in. 2.2. Bailey will be with his handler or a designated adult at all times. 2.3. Bailey will be on a lead whenever moving around the site.	SMT Handler Handler	Always Always Always	NA.