

Appendix 1

RISK ASSESSMENT

DOG IN SCHOOL

The aim of introducing a school well-being dog.

- To have a dog that the children could learn how to care for, interact safely around and also benefit their social and emotional development

Children will learn the principles of good pet ownership and be taught how to handle dogs safely and responsibly; they will take great enjoyment from interaction with the dog.

The temperament of the dog has been closely monitored to ensure that it is suitable for interaction with children by senior leadership from Ambitions Trust. He will also be introduced to the school gradually in order to ascertain his suitability to support pupils. The dog will live with Mrs Tucker (Vice Principal of Queen's Park Academy) in her home at her own expense.

There are no diseases that could be caught from the dog as he will be kept up to date with immunisations, including rabies and worming treatment, as in line with European vet guidelines. A register of his annual health check will be kept both by Mrs Tucker and the vet's surgery. It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but that for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits.

Any parent who does not wish for their child to interact with the dog is invited to write to inform Mr Vernon of their wishes. This risk assessment will be reviewed annually and the impact of a school dog will be evaluated by the AAC and senior leadership team.

Significant Hazards and Associated Risks	Those who might be harmed	Residual Risk Rating	Control Measures:
Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	(H / M / L)	Controls, including relevant sources of guidance and actions to be taken to minimise risks.
Dog getting over excited when interacting with children.	Child/staff knocked to ground Child/staff scratched by dog Child/staff bitten by dog	L L M	The dog will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises unsupervised. Children are not left with the dog unsupervised. During the school day the dog will always be on a lead when he is out of his crate/ the Principal's office, except when he is undergoing structured training with his primary trainer or is supervised in an enclosed area.

			<p>The dog will be trained not to jump up or bite the children.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught how to read dog behaviour and the impact of their actions. Education of this nature will continually be given to children in whole school assembly, specific workshops from outside professionals, including the Blue Cross / Dog Trust, in class time and PSHE lessons.</p> <p>Pupils will be taught what to do to prevent the dog from chasing them. (i.e. stand still with arms crossed over their bodies –‘standing tall like a tree’).</p> <p>The dog will attend the groomers regularly to make sure his claws are kept short and is also walked on concrete/tarmac to keep them trimmed.</p> <p>Mr Vernon and Arthur will undergo formal training with an experienced local dog trainer.</p> <p>All staff will have been introduced to the dog and the expectations.</p>
<p>Keeping safe when dog walking.</p>	<p>Child/staff knocked to ground.</p> <p>Child/staff scratched by dog.</p> <p>Child/staff bitten by dog.</p>	<p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>M</p>	<p>A member of staff will always have the school dog on the lead and have responsibility to ensure that they have control of him.</p> <p>Children, in small groups, may walk the school dog with a member of staff. The member of staff will always hold the lead. Children are reminded how to keep safe crossing the road and are supervised at all times by the member of staff. (Permission to walk offsite will be gained from parents/carers beforehand).</p> <p>The member of staff will pick up any dog excrement and will remind children of the importance of washing hands on return to school.</p> <p>Children will be given the choice if they would like to stroke the school dog and or feed the dog a treat and are shown how to do this safely with a flat hand. They will be reminded on return to school to wash their hands.</p> <p>All members of school community to be vigilant to look where they are walking to avoid tripping over the dog.</p> <p>The dog to be on a short lead when walking around school with a member of staff.</p>

The dog being a tripping hazard.	Child/staff/ Parent/visitor	L	Mr Vernon's office is big enough for Arthur to be happy and safe in if he needs to be restrained for a short period of the day. The door to the office will have a stair gate to ensure he stays in.
The dog gets loose from office area, his crate or from his lead.	Child/staff knocked to ground Child/staff scratched by dog Child/staff bitten by dog	L L M	<p>If the dog does get loose from the Principal's office the teacher on duty will call for a designated staff member who will come and put the dog back in the Principal's room.</p> <p>There are six members of staff who will be called upon in the event of the dog getting loose or if he needs attention at any other time, they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Vernon (Principal) 2. Mr Whitlock (Site Manager) 3. Mr Chaffey (Vice Principal) 4. Ms Wilson (Vice Principal) 5. Mrs Turner (Finance Assistant) 6. Mrs Whitaker (Admin Lead)
Dog hair causing allergies	Children/staff have allergic reaction	L	<p>The school dog is a Cocker Spaniel, which is not a high moulting breed to reduce the chance of an allergic reaction. Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of the dog to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the Principal/teachers and office staff.</p> <p>Staff members will also be asked to inform the Principal of any allergies.</p> <p>Fully supervised, children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog as they wish and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction.</p> <p>Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Wounds on exposed skin will be covered.</p> <p>Flea treatment will be carried out at monthly intervals. Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines, at 3 monthly intervals.</p> <p>If the dog is sick he will not come into school until he is better.</p> <p>The dog will never go into a food preparation area and/or the kitchen.</p>

Children catching disease from the dog.	Children/staff contract diseases that can be carried by dogs	L L	Should the dog defecate on the school site a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner. Animal waste bags will be carried by the staff member walking the dog. All immunisations will be kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme and a register of this is kept by Mr Vernon.
Financial cost of the dog's upkeep	School unable to afford ongoing cost of the dog's day-to-day upkeep or medical bills	L	The dog is the financial responsibility of Mrs Tucker. She is financially responsible for all his care and day-to-day costs. The dog is the responsibility of Mrs Tucker outside of school hours. Dog training costs will be paid for by Mrs Tucker. As the dog gets older, if he is suitable, he may be trained as a 'pets as therapy' dog. If this is the case, then the school may pay a contribution towards these additional training costs.
Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog	School not adequately covered financially	L	Mrs Tucker will insure the dog's medical needs. Liability insurance will be held in line with the school's RPA agreement and will be renewed annually. The certificates are kept in the school office.
Fire Alarm	Who has responsibility to remove dog from the building	M	Dog signed in as a member of staff so fire marshall's know when he is onsite.
Noise / Barking	Pupils who will be distracted by the noise	L	Cocker Spaniels are bred to be sociable dogs and are often used as therapy dogs as they are known to be good with children. The dog has been introduced to children from birth so is used to a noisy environment, therefore reducing the chance of him barking.
Dog Phobia	Distress caused by close proximity to the dog		Parents have been asked to inform the school if their child is scared to be in close contact with the dog. Parents will be offered a programme of support for child to help overcome aversion. Parents also offered the option of their child having no close contact. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept by the office staff. Visitors will be advised that a dog is in the head's office and removed if requested. Notice in school entrance and noted on school website.

Date completed:	November 2021		
Date to be reviewed:	November 2022		