

# Risk Assessment for School Dog On-Site



**Upham CE Primary School**  
**School Dog: Maggie**  
**Breed: Cavapoo**  
**Owner: D.Woolley**



<b>Location:</b>	Upham CE Primary School
<b>Date of Assessment:</b>	01/10/25
<b>Who is at Risk?</b>	Children, staff, visitors, contractors

**Timescale/ scope of this Risk Assessment**

An initial settling in, training and acclimatisation time was completed during 2022/23. Maggie has demonstrated since this that her behaviour towards children and adults is consistently calm and she follows direction and commands well. This risk assessment covers the academic year 2025/26 though would be review if circumstances (including those related to children) or her behaviours were to change.

**Hazards and Control Measures**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Physical injury eg scratch/ bite</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maggie based in HT office with 'baby gate' across door to prevent 'escape'</li> <li>•Position of offices ensures hall door separation to children, should Maggie be poorly supervised. Close arm to be added to hall door to keep closed.</li> <li>•When moving around school Maggie to be directed by owner/on sturdy lead attached to clip-harness.</li> <li>•Calm, friendly temperament already identified by qualified dog trainer - initial training to be compliant, return, wait established.</li> <li>•In the event of a bite, dog removed by handler. Appropriate first aid would be available and parent would be immediately informed. A governor would undertake a review of the incident so that there is no conflict of interest.</li> <li>•Public liability insurance in place and checked by governors.</li> <li>•Treats only given for particular actions so no association is made between food and children. Maggie consistently takes treats gently though children encouraged to give to floor to reinforce staying 4 paws on the floor.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Injury as a result of initial contact</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Calm, friendly temperament already identified by qualified dog trainer - initial training to be compliant, return, wait established.</li> <li>•Maggie based in HT office</li> <li>•HT owner to be in control of dog at all times during this period, so mood can be recognised</li> <li>•All children trained in how to greet Maggie. New year R training and new-to school in-year admissions all to be trained before meeting.</li> <li>•If Maggie were agitated or too excitable, session would be postponed.</li> </ul>

Hazard	<b>Allergies to dog (eg respiratory, skin, nose, eyes, anaphylactic)</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No children on roll with animal allergies (no specific concerns flagged in initial consultation).</li> <li>•As a poodle cross, Maggie is a non-shedding breed, minimising hair shedding.</li> <li>•In the event of a child with specific allergy, specific additional control measures could be planned, involving separation, no-go zones for dog. Additional measures would need to address hair from children’s clothing from dogs at home.</li> <li>•Parents to ensure school is update if animal allergies emerge</li> <li>•Visitors/ contractors made aware of presence of dog so they can share personal allergy risk.</li> </ul>
Hazard	<b>Children frightened by dog’s presence</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Initial location in HT office, not in classrooms. No sudden appearances.</li> <li>•Children introduced to Maggie. Modest size and endearing appearance will help build confidence.</li> <li>•When visitors (adults, children &amp; pre-schools) meet Maggie, consent agreed before being introduced – DW present to ‘steer’.</li> <li>•Initial teaching of children of what Maggie’s temperaments and behaviours are like so she becomes more familiar and predictable.</li> <li>•Whole school revisit messages about dog behaviour and how to interact/ avoid</li> <li>•Children taught to recognise body language – and the stress ladder of escalation</li> </ul>
Hazard	<b>Over excited jumping up</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Calm, friendly manner. Specific training to not jump up.</li> <li>•Treats given to floor. Children taught to hold treat in closed hand to chest, not wave about.</li> <li>•Protocol for meeting staff to ensure jumping up is never rewarded – ‘stepping into’ technique to discourage.</li> <li>•If Maggie is over excited she will be removed from situation rather than meet anyone</li> </ul>
Hazard	<b>Inappropriate behaviour of children around dog</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Instructions shared for how to behave when close to HT office eg when collecting laptop.</li> <li>•Children well know and behaviour understood.</li> <li>•Supported meeting used for children with complex needs/ language needs etc o show what to do.</li> <li>•Children taught how to interact – to recognise stress ladder of body language signs to know when to avoid interaction with any dog</li> <li>•New Year R children (and mid in-year) taught how to approach and greet.</li> <li>•Initial contact group carefully selected for calm behaviour and ability to take instruction and understand implications</li> </ul>
Hazard	<b>Fleas ticks worms and disease</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maggie is fully up to date with veterinary prescribed flea/ tick and worm treatments.</li> <li>•Tick treatment given during spring-autumn tick season.</li> <li>•Should Maggie be unwell, she would not be brought into school</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maggie would never be allowed to enter hall during lunch time – no interactions whilst children eating.</li> <li>•Good hygiene following any interactions -hand washing etc</li> <li>•Interactions where children encourage licking to be discouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Dog faeces (Toxocariasis round worm) and vomit</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maggie is trained to 'ring a bell' hung from a door handle when she needs to urinate/ defecate which can be used in school</li> <li>•Lead will be used to take Maggie to set area between cycle shed and environmental area and/or bank to front of school, both away from all children.</li> <li>•Dog faeces will be collected immediately afterwards using a 'dog waist bag' by an adult, never a child.</li> <li>•An 'accidents' in school would be immediately cleared up and disinfected.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Not recognising dog's mood leading to reaction</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•HT handler to lead all interactions.</li> <li>•HT office as safe, familiar place- Maggie returned to this 'base' if agitated, stressed or over-excited.</li> <li>•Maggie's temperament is to back away from any stress rather than confront. Owner alert to early indicators eg yawning, licking lips, shake-offs.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Improper handling</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Only HT handler to lead interactions</li> <li>•Staff to receive basic training how to help manage Maggie, including a 'how to meet' protocol</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Dog's reactions to noise eg fire alarm</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Training shows adaptability to loud noises with pause to listen but not panic/ flight or fight responses</li> <li>•Key loud noises such as fire alarms introduced when no children on site during early morning caretaker testing</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Other dogs/ strays</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•General policy of no dogs, other than school dog, to be on site.</li> <li>•Expectation will be relayed to parents that school dog does not mean all dogs are now welcome.</li> <li>•If stray dog were to appear on site (despite secure boundary), they should be secured in a closed space, Maggie separated and secured in safe HT office.</li> <li>•In the event of an assistance dog visiting, Maggie could be introduced with the owner's consent. She is well socialised with other dogs and consistently demonstrates submissive behaviours.</li> </ul>


### **Hazards to Maggie and Control Measures to Protect Dog's Welfare**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Stress related reactions/ behaviours</b>
<b>Control Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•HT handler to oversee all activities – if anxiety/ stress identified, intervene and ensure she can return to 'safe space'</li> <li>•HT office already familiar; school is already familiar</li> <li>•Dog behaviourist able to support further if required, should demands change.</li> </ul>


Hazard	<b>Over work, tiredness</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contact and interactions limited to short spells of time and not for sustained periods</li> <li>•Time during day to sleep, rest and play. Dog bed in office. Toys from home available.</li> <li>•Limited activity especially outside in very hot weather. Always access to water bowl.</li> <li>•Limited days in school, not everyday but just selected times.</li> </ul>

Hazard	<b>Risk of poisoning from common foods (chocolate, raisins, grapes)</b>
Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Children taught to understand real risks and avoid dropping items outside that she may find (or tell adult)</li> <li>•On snack days when raisin packets provided, children to eat inside before going out</li> <li>•Avoid crossing hall after lunch until floor has been swept in case of dropped items eg grape pieces.</li> <li>•Secure litter bits outside and in class</li> <li>•No treats eg from lunches to ever be given by children or staff – dog treats supplied by HT handler</li> </ul>

With these control measures the risk is:		
Unacceptable Level of Risk	Further Controls Needed to reduce risk further	Low Risk, adequately controlled risks

Name of Assessor	D.Woolley	Signature of Assessor	
Date of Assessment	1.10.25		

Manager's Comments	Insert additional Information as Required

Name of Manager	G.Rainger (CofG)	Signature of Manager	
Date of Assessment	01.10.25		

Review date	Reviewed by	Reviewer signature	Comments
	October 2026		