



Risk Assessment

My Canine Companion (MCC) Dogs in Holy Family Secondary School

November 2024

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
Bites and scratches	Staff, students and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs will be under effective control at all times. • Dogs must have a good temperament and be used to being around students. • Dogs must be well trained not to bite, scratch or jump up. • Handler will remain with dog at all times (Primary School, Units and Special Schools) • Students are taught how to approach and interact with the dog. • Training will be provided by MCC to all staff in relation to dog behaviour. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill
Poor hygiene and health risks	Staff, students and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas • All staff and students are required to wash their hands after contact with dogs • Handlers take dog off site to toilet and safely dispose of any waste. A Dog waste bin is accessible. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill M Keenan I Navarro

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs will be well groomed at all times and kept in good condition. • Dogs will be fed food recommended by MCC only and fed treats only as advised by the handler. • If a dog is unwell, they should be left at home. Interaction with a dog who is unwell is not allowed. A dog who feels unwell may act out of character. 	
Allergies	Staff and students	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog breeds are hypoallergenic and low moulting. • If a parent objects to their child interacting with the dog, they should inform the school by a written document. • Alternative activities are provided in a separate room for those with allergies 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill
Phobias	Staff and students	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We tell parents and students about the dog in advance • Contact with dogs is optional • Work can be done with the student to help overcome this phobia. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill M Keenan I Navarro
Activities and games involving the dog	Staff, students, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main handler remains with dogs at all times • Handler speaks to school staff in advance and ensure the area and activity is safe • We check with the handler and set a limit for the number of students who can interact with a dog at once. This is set by the handler. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill

Hazard	Who is affected/at risk	Risk rating (low, medium or high)	Actions/control measures	Person responsible
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School staff remove students who misbehave or upset dogs. We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired. 	
Students misbehaving	Students, dogs and handlers	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are told in advance what to expect and how to behave. School staff are present at all times (Primary School, Units and Special Schools). The dog will be removed from a stressful situation or from students who misbehave. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill M Keenan I Navarro
Damage caused to school materials, equipment and the school site	Dogs	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs remain under effective control at all times. Dogs are kept in secured rooms, with closed doors. Handlers bring suitable toys if necessary Areas/classrooms are cleared as much as possible before dogs visit. 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill M Keenan I Navarro
Off Site/School Grounds	Dogs, Public, handler and students		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackets on at all times. Dogs is under effective control, lead is on at all times. All off site activities are risk assessed by the dogs handler 	S Allen N Loakman E Frahill M Keenan I Navarro