

Holmesdale Community Infant School
Pets as therapy dog Risk Assessment

Process/Activity *	Hazards Identified*	Persons at Significant Risk	Existing Controls *	Existing Risk Rating: H/M/L *	Are existing controls adequate? Y/N	What additional controls are required? (See Actions attached)
Pets as therapy dog (Bernard in school)	Person scratched by dog	Pupil/staff	Bernard will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will never be allowed to freely roam the school premises. • Pupils are never left with the dog unsupervised.	M	Y	
	Person bitten by dog	Pupil/staff	• Bernard will always be on a lead when in the school building • Bernard is trained not to jump up or mouth the children. • Pupils will be taught the impact of their actions. Education of this nature is continually given to children, and often to whole school during assemblies, class time and PSHE lessons. • Bernard will be introduced to the school slowly and always with his owner. All staff will be introduced to the dog and the expectations (dos and don'ts) of having a dog in school. • Rachel Dixon will ensure his claws are well maintained and of appropriate length. •	L	Y	
	Dog hair causing allergies in adults or pupils	Pupils/staff	Parents have been asked to inform the school of any known allergies prior to introduction of Bernard to school. A list of any children who should not interact with the dog will be kept on the school records. • Children will have the opportunity to interact with the dog in a controlled environment and those with allergies will be able to opt out of interaction. • Children will be taught to wash their hands after active participation with the dog. Staff can choose not to interact with Bernard if they are aware of an allergy.	M	Y	Letter sent to parents

	Pupils or staff getting germs from the dog	Pupils/staff	<p>In the unlikely event Bernard should urinate or defecate in the school building or grounds: Rachel Dixon or a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe manner, if required the area will then be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All immunisations are kept up to date in accordance with European Pet Passport scheme. • Flea and tick treatment is carried out at monthly intervals. • Worming treatment is carried out in line with European Vet guidelines at 3 monthly intervals. 	L	Y	
	Claim is made against school re: behaviour of the dog	School	<p>Bernard is insured by Pets as Therapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certificate is kept in school office and is renewed annually. • The school has public liability insurance. 	L	Y	

Action Required	Action By Whom	Renewal date	Date Completed
Children regularly reminded about how to interact with Bernard	Class teacher, support staff and Rachel Dixon		
Risk Assessment updated annually	HT	January 2025	January 2024
Parent/ guardian permission	Office	Annual for new parents or given every time a child starts the school	