



Risk Assessment: St. Mary's N.S. Cobh My Canine Companion (MCC) Dogs in School

| Hazard | Who is affected/at risk | Risk rating (low, medium or high) | Actions/control measures | Person responsible |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Bites and scratches | Staff, pupils 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 children. ● 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) ● Children are taught how to approach and interact with the dog. ● Training will be provided by MCC to all staff in relation to dog behaviour. | Ava Gilley Main dog handler Noelle Lane 2 nd dog handler |
| Poor hygiene and health risks | Staff, pupils and handlers | low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All dogs that visit are vaccinated, wormed, and treated for fleas ● All staff and pupils are encouraged to wash their hands after contact with dogs | Ava Gilley Noelle Lane |

St Mary's Ns Cobh
School Therapy Dog. Risk Assessment

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|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handlers take dog off site to toilet and safely dispose of any waste. A Dog waste bin is accessible. ● 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 pupils | 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 | Ava Noelle |
| Phobias | Staff and pupils | low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We tell parents and children about the dog in advance ● Contact with dogs is optional ● Work can be done with the student to help overcome this phobia. | Class teachers Noelle |
| Activities and games involving the dog | Staff, pupils, 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 | Noelle Ava |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We check with the handler and set a limit for the number of children who can interact with a dog at once. This is set by the handler. ● School staff remove children who misbehave or upset dogs. ● We set a time limit on activities as recommended by handlers, so dogs do not get tired. | School staff |
| Children misbehaving | Pupils, dogs and handlers | low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children 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 children who misbehave. | Noelle All class teachers |
| 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. | Noelle Ava |
| 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. | Ava Noelle |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All off site activities are risk assessed by the dogs handler | |
