



### School Dog Risk Assessment

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

It is accepted that interacting with animals is not appropriate for all children but for some it has the potential to provide many positive benefits. Any parent who does not want their child to interact with 'Martha' (our miniature schnauzer, owned by Miss Barker) is invited to write to Miss Barker and inform her of their wishes.

Hazard	Who is Affected/at Risk	Risk Rating (low, medium or high)	Control Measure	Person Responsible
Martha getting over excited when interacting with children	Pupil knocked to the ground	Low	Martha will always be in the care of a responsible adult and will not be allowed to roam freely around the school premises  Pupils will not be left unsupervised with Martha  Martha will always be on a lead or carried  Pupils will be taught how to approach Martha and what to do to prevent her chasing them	Miss Barker
	Pupil scratched by Martha	Medium		
	Pupil bitten by Martha	Medium		

			<p>Risk of scratching and biting will reduce as Martha gets older and fully completes training</p> <p>Martha will attend the vets regularly to ensure that she is in good health</p>	
Martha causing allergies	Pupils or staff who have allergic reactions	Low	<p>Martha is a miniature schnauzer and is hypoallergenic.</p> <p>Pupils will wash their hands after stroking Martha</p>	Miss Barker
Pupils getting germs from Martha	Pupils or staff will contract diseases that can be carried by Martha	Low	<p>When Martha urinates/defecates a member of staff will clear this up immediately and dispose of it in a safe way.</p> <p>All Martha's vaccinations are up to date</p> <p>Flea/worming treatment is carried out every month</p>	Miss Barker