

Brightsparks Day Nursery

Risk Assessment – Nursery Dog (Cooper)

Dog: Cooper (Miniature Dachshund)

Owner: Helen Elliott

Assessment Date: July 2026

Review Date: July 2027

Assessor: Helen Elliott

Overall Risk Rating: Low (with control measures in place)

Purpose

Cooper visits the nursery to support children's emotional wellbeing, confidence, communication, empathy and understanding of responsible pet ownership.

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Dog bites or scratches	Children, staff, visitors	Cooper has a calm temperament and is supervised at all times. Children are taught safe interaction. No rough play, chasing, hugging, pulling ears/tail or climbing. Cooper is removed if stressed.	Low
Dog becoming overwhelmed	Dog, children	Access to a quiet rest area. Visits are time-limited. Staff monitor body language and stop interactions if needed.	Low
Allergies	Children, staff	Parents declare allergies. Alternative arrangements made where required. Handwashing after contact. Regular cleaning.	Low
Infection or illness	Everyone	Vaccinations, flea and worm treatments kept up	Low

		to date. Cooper does not attend if unwell. Good hand hygiene.	
Dog fouling	Everyone	Toileted before entering nursery. Accidents cleaned immediately using PPE and disinfectant.	Low
Trips and falls	Children, staff	Walkways kept clear. Children reminded not to run around Cooper. Lead used only entering/leaving.	Low
Food hygiene	Children	No access to kitchen or food preparation areas. Children only feed Cooper during supervised activities.	Low
Fear of dogs	Children, staff	No child is forced to interact. Alternative activities provided. Parents informed.	Low
Safeguarding	Children	Never left alone with children. Not involved in toileting, intimate care or sleep routines.	Low
Escape	Everyone	Secure harness/collar. Doors and gates kept closed.	Low
Dog resting	Children, dog	Designated quiet bed/crate. Children taught not to disturb resting dog.	Low
Hygiene	Everyone	Handwashing after contact and before meals.	Low
Emergency care	Dog	Owner has emergency veterinary contact details. Cooper leaves immediately if unwell.	Low

Rules for Children

- Walk calmly around Cooper.
- Always ask an adult before approaching him.
- Stroke gently on his shoulders or back.
- Never disturb him while sleeping or eating.
- Never hug, ride, pull or chase him.
- Wash hands after touching him.

Staff Responsibilities

- Supervise all interactions.
- Monitor Cooper's behaviour.
- End interactions immediately if Cooper shows signs of stress.
- Ensure hygiene procedures are followed.
- Record any incidents involving Cooper.
- Inform parents where appropriate.

Review

Review annually, after any incident involving Cooper, after changes to his health or behaviour, or following changes to nursery practice or guidance.