

Risk Assessment – Dog Walk

Area of Operation: dog walking

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Interaction with other dogs	Risk of injury from encounters with unfamiliar dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choose low-traffic areas with fewer dogs to minimise encounters. ○ Instruct students to avoid approaching unknown dogs. ○ Staff maintain control of the dog on a lead, ensuring the dog remains calm and responsive to commands.
Dog handling and control	Risk of students being pulled or tripping if dog pulls suddenly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only bring well-trained, child-friendly dogs, with each dog's suitability confirmed through a completed Dog Questionnaire before any walk. - Assign staff or capable individuals to hold the lead; students should avoid handling the lead directly. ○ Staff ensure the dog remains calm around students and prevent disruptive behaviours like jumping or pulling.
Dog waste	Risk of hygiene issues or contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff are responsible for carrying dog waste bags and ensuring waste is picked up immediately. ○ Hand sanitiser should be available and used after handling dog waste or the dog. ○ Ensure dog waste is disposed of in designated bins.
Dog's behaviour (unexpected reactions)	Risk of injury if the dog becomes anxious or reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only use dogs that are well-socialised, child-friendly, and trained to remain calm in various settings, confirmed through a completed Dog Questionnaire. ○ Monitor the dog's body language, and respond immediately to signs of stress, following guidelines to avoid triggers (e.g., not approaching while the dog is eating or resting).

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Interaction with the public	Potential for misunderstandings or conflicts with members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare students for expected behaviour around others, such as keeping noise levels low and respecting space. ○ Position staff nearby to intervene if a situation arises. ○ Staff trained to calmly manage any conflicts and explain the group's purpose if needed.
Use of public toilets	Risk of separation from the group and interactions with strangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff accompany students to toilets when needed, ensuring privacy and supervision. ○ Select facilities close to the walking path for easy monitoring. ○ Set a designated meeting point outside toilets in case of separation.
Separation or wandering	Risk of students straying from the group or getting lost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use designated dog-walking trails, enclosed or marked areas with clear boundaries. ○ Implement a buddy system, with each staff member assigned to a small group. ○ Staff carry ID cards, mobile phones for quick communication if separation occurs.
Extreme weather conditions	Risk of heatstroke, hypothermia, or other weather-related discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check the weather forecast before the walk and ensure students wear appropriate clothing. ○ Select areas with shaded or sheltered paths and provide sunscreen, hats, or rain gear as needed. ○ Plan regular breaks in shaded areas and monitor for discomfort.
Students's potential behavioural issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour, leading to accidents or disturbing other park users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prefer safe, enclosed locations with minimal public traffic, where students can engage calmly. ○ Maintain a high staff-to-child ratio for close supervision. ○ Brief students on behaviour expectations, supported by "Doggy Rules" for safe and positive interactions with the dog which can be found in the Dogs at Work Policy
Fatigue or discomfort	Potential for tiredness or discomfort due to extended walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select paths that are gentle, stable, and easy to navigate, with benches or rest areas along the route. ○ Plan regular breaks to rest and hydrate, especially if the walk is lengthy.
Emergency evacuation	Risk of confusion or distress if evacuation from the area is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select locations with clear paths and access points to facilitate emergency evacuation if necessary. ○ Review emergency procedures with staff and students before starting the walk. ○ Identify and communicate safe meeting points along the path.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart
- Dogs In Provision Policy / Risk Assessment

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027