

## 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"> <li>○ Choose low-traffic areas with fewer dogs to minimise encounters.</li> <li>○ Instruct students to avoid approaching unknown dogs.</li> <li>○ Staff maintain control of the dog on a lead, ensuring the dog remains calm and responsive to commands.</li> </ul>
Dog handling and control	Risk of students being pulled or tripping if dog pulls suddenly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Staff ensure the dog remains calm around students and prevent disruptive behaviours like jumping or pulling.</li> </ul>
Dog waste	Risk of hygiene issues or contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff are responsible for carrying dog waste bags and ensuring waste is picked up immediately.</li> <li>○ Hand sanitiser should be available and used after handling dog waste or the dog.</li> <li>○ Ensure dog waste is disposed of in designated bins.</li> </ul>
Dog's behaviour (unexpected reactions)	Risk of injury if the dog becomes anxious or reactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only use dogs that are well-socialised, child-friendly, and trained to remain calm in various settings, confirmed through a completed Dog Questionnaire.</li> <li>○ 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).</li> </ul>

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



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