



### Forest School Risk Assessment

Date of assessment	January 2024	Review Date: January 2025	January 2025	Signed: A. Bonsall
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Activity/process/operation	What are the hazards to health and safety?	What risks do they pose and to whom?	What existing control measures are in place to reduce risk?	Risk level H/M/L	Likelihood level (with control measures in place) H/M/L	Further action:
Walking to/from Forest School (Downing Woods)	Road/Car Members of the public Dogs Uneven ground	Serious physical injury - cut/fracture/bruise/head injury/death Abduction Bites/infection Twisted ankles/grazed knees/flesh wounds/fracture/break	Three adults walk with group, positioned near the front, middle and back of the group. Children walk in pairs. Children keep up with the children in front, no gaps left in the line. Two adults see the children across the road, crossing at shortest distance and crossing in a straight line. All children told to walk, no running allowed. No one is allowed to bend down and stroke any dogs. This is reiterated regularly in the classroom and in log circle. Children are counted before leaving school and before leaving the woodland setting. Charged mobile phone and First Aid kit taken EVERY time in case of emergency. Specific children with one to ones to be supported throughout the session including walking to/from and with whatever activities they choose.	Roads - H MoPs - L Dogs - M Uneven ground - M	M – L	Consider whether particular class is able to follow the safety measures in place and if they are not, decide to spend FS time at school woodland site instead.

<p>Moving around Forest School – both H W and D W</p>	<p>Tree roots/stumps Leaf litter on ground Mud on ground Branches at eye height Stones and bricks on ground (DW only) Dog faeces (D W only) Glass/litter</p>	<p>Slips/trips/falls resulting in grazes/cuts/bumps/bruises or scratches Fracture/break Eye injury Head injury Infection</p>	<p>Walking feet rule Reminder about ground and weather conditions at the log circle each session Use established paths and routes around the FS site where possible</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Daily site check carried out by FS lead. site visited before every FS session</p>
<p>Plants and Nature exploration</p>	<p>Toxic/poisonous plants and berries Nettles/thorns/thistles Insects</p>	<p>Poisoning Allergic reactions Choking Scratches/stings/bites</p>	<p>FS identify and remove - where possible- potentially dangerous plants Where not possible, FS Lead photograph, show and discuss dangers with all groups and adults. When new plants are spotted show the group again where it can be located and how to identify it. Daily site check identifies and particular areas with nettles/thorns etc and show to the group – where possible rope off the area and set up activities away from danger. Have a clear “no pick, no lick” rule at FS. Regularly discuss the importance. Where wasps or hornets are spotted, avoid having activities in this area and if necessary leave the site calmly. If Asian Hornets seen, report and leave the site.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>M-L</p>	<p>Laminate photographs of Lords and Ladies to display.</p>
<p>Tools (bow saw/ fixed blade knife/ hammer and nails/ mallet/secateurs/bypass loppers)</p>	<p>Sharp edges/blades Hard metal/wood.</p>	<p>Cuts/flesh wound/scratch/fracture</p>	<p>Safe tool talk given each session, demonstrate and remind about PPE and correct handling of each tool – naming the parts, how to carry and how to store each tool safely.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Update and check PPE</p>

			<p>Ensure all children maintain a “blood bubble” (safe distance between them and others when working with tools)  Check tools every time they are used. Clean regularly and remove any damaged tools until they are repaired or replaced.</p>			
<p>Fire</p> <p>cooking</p>	<p>Sticks  Flames  Metal pan  Hot liquid or food  Smoke</p>	<p>Burns/scalds/choking/asthma</p> <p>Choking  Hygiene</p>	<p>Fire Circle rules – use of red/amber/green dragons to describe how close children are to the fire.  Demonstrate “respect position” when lighting the fire and toasting marshmallows.  Ensure no more than 4 children approach the fire at any one time.  Ensure fire is NEVER left alone when lit.  Ensure no children cross the circle even after the fire has been extinguished.  Cooking is prepared with clean hands – in the school building and then transported to the fire whenever possible.  Children only eat what they have been directly told to eat and only when sitting in the log circle with an adult, never unsupervised.  Allergy information should be up to date and adjustments made.  Epi pens carried at all times.  Inhalers carried. Asthmatic children seated furthest away from smoke.  All children told they are allowed to step out of the fire circle at any time to make them feel safe.</p> <p>Hand washing prior to cooking/eating  Warm/soapy water available every time  food/drink are given at FS</p>	M-H	L	<p>CT keep up to date records of allergies  *any doubt phone parents</p>
Tree climbing	<p>Falls  Branches</p>	<p>Cut/graze/fracture/break/head</p>	<p>Children are allowed to climb a tree if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. an adult is with them</li> <li>. the weather is not wet or windy</li> </ul>	H	M-L	<p>Suggest trainers for tree climbing</p>

		injury/concussion/paralysis/death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. they do not climb higher than their head height</li><li>. only one child per tree</li></ul>			as wellington boots are not the best footwear for this activity
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