

Risk Assessment Form for Forest School Site



Description of the site: Area is owned by St Josephs Tearooms and is within their grounds surrounded by boundary walls and one entry/exit. The site is used by the public and for forest school use. Large fauna cannot access the area, however smaller fauna such as cats, hedgehogs, foxes and rabbits can enter. The site is a small broadleaved woodland with a mixture of flora including ferns, bramble and nettles. There is no access for vehicles into the woodland area. The area has no running water sections, but there is a boggy leaf pit at the foot of a rock formation. This is out of bounds to the public. Beyond the boundaries are farmer's fields and the entry/exit leads down to the tearooms. There is a fire pit area within the woodland area with tree trunk benches, a parachute cover and surrounded by a fenced area, this is called the 'Base Camp'. There is a rope swing 5 meters from the base camp and sits alongside a row of nettles that are continuously managed. The woodland has a pathway that circulates around the woodland area that starts and leads back to base camp.

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing measures / new measures	Who will do it? When?
1	Nettles and brambles	stinging	all	Make children aware, clear pathways and main play areas. Children to wear long trousers.	FS Manager - prior to visit
2	Berried flora	poisoning	children	Inform all children not to pick or eat berries. Wash hands before eating.	FS Manager - on visit
3	Tree roots and stumps	tripping	all	Inform all to take care in woods, clear walkways of bramble roots.	All - on visit
4	Tree branches	Branches falling, children falling.	all	Pre-visit & continuous risk check, remove hanging dead wood. Remind children of risks.	FS Manager - prior to & on visit.
5	Sticks	hitting	children	Inform children of rules; use a stick no longer than your arm, no hitting.	FS Manager - on visit
6	Faeces	contamination	all	Pre-visit & continuous risk check, remove and discard safely.	FS Manager - prior to & on visit.
7	Debris / rubbish	Glass, drug use, metals.	all	Pre-visit & continuous risk check, ask children not to pick up rubbish, inform an adult if they find something, adult to remove safely.	FS Manager - prior to & on visit.
8	Fire	Burns, out of control.	all	<i>*separate risk assessment for activity</i> , trained staff present at all times, safety procedures followed.	FS Manager - prior to & on visit.
9	Perimeter fence and boundary walls	escape of children	children	Ensure all fencing is in good condition. Speak to children and adults about boundaries. Staff supervise the boundary.	all - on visit
10	Mushrooms and fungi	poisoning	all	Inform all children and adults to look only, no touching.	all - on visit

	Hazard	Harm	People at risk	Existing measures / new measures	Who will do it? When?
11	Bees, wasps, adders.	stings and bites	all	Check area for nests, avoid contact, first aider always on site, seek medical aid (999) if anaphylactic shock or adder bites are present.	all - on visit
12	Tools	Cuts, grazes, amputation.	all	tools stored away in designated tool area, <i>*separate risk assessment for each tool</i> , strict supervision, correct use of tools.	All - on visit
13	Ropes and swings	falls	children	Check quality of ropes & knots. First aider on site at all times.	All - on visit
14	Trees	falls	children	First aider on site at all times, support children to manage their own risks.	All - on visit

Emergency Arrangements

Serious Accident: Seek additional adult help, provide first aid, call ambulance 999, inform parents (next of kin). Return all other children to the base camp; keep them calm, read stories, sing songs etc. Write up accident report form, inform HSE, assess risk assessment and make new adjustments for future.

Minor Accident: Provide first aid, complete accident report form, inform parents (carer), assess risk assessment and make adjustments for future.

Weather change: Make dynamic risk assessment, seek shelter or cancel session.

Safety Advice

Clothing: long trousers and long sleeves, warm clothing in cold weather, waterproof clothing in wet weather. Safety gauntlets at fire, work wear gloves for using tools and collecting rubbish. Spare clothing available in the classroom for emergencies.

Communications: Mobile phone or walkie talkies.

First Aid: First aid kit to be taken for each visit.

Food and Drink: Wash hands before eating, sit for eating and drinking.

Children's safety advice: Remind children of Forest School ground rules being outside.

Staff safety advice: Staff to discuss any worries before entering the site before each session and decide if it is safe to enter as a team. Consider weather, environment, state of site etc.

Further Comments

The overall hazard rating for the site is low as long as health and safety guidelines are followed.

*Review site assessment form and update annually or before should incidents or changes occur.

Signature	Role	Date
	Forest School Manager	
	Above & Beyond Director	