



## Forest School Site Risk Assessment

**Site:** St. Mary's CiW School  
**User:** All classes

**Risk Assessment written by:** KL and JR  
**Date:** July 2022  
**Review date:** July 2023

**Key:** L1: Likelihood before control measures

S1: Severity before control measures

RR1: Risk Rating (likelihood multiplies by severity) before control measures

L2: Likelihood after control measures

S2: Severity after control measures

RR2: Risk Rating after control measures

		Before control			State control measures and person responsible to action each one	After control		
Hazard	Resultant effect(s)	L	S	R R		L	S	R R
Outdoor classroom setting	Unable to contact emergency services	2	3	6	<i>All leaders, staff and parent helpers carry charged mobile phones with network and charge.</i> <i>If no network is available on site, all to know where nearest telephone is.</i> First aid kit to be on site and accessible in all situations.	1	3	3
Weather conditions	Hypothermia, hyperthermia, sunburn	2	3	6	Leaders to listen to weather forecasts in advance of the session and to have weather contingency plans in place. In the event of a STRONG BREEZE (rating 5-6 on the Beaufort scale), the group will remain at an indoor setting and carry out suitable activities. <i>In cold weather leaders and staff to ensure group have adequate clothing.</i> <i>In cold weather, school staff are advised to encourage participants to carry spare clothing</i> <i>In wet weather, group to wear waterproof clothing and to use tarpaulin shelters/ group shelters.</i> First aid kit to be on site and accessible in all situations.	1	3	3
Animal faeces	Disease (Toxocariasis),	2	2	4	Site and will be checked and cleaned where necessary before the activity session as part of daily dynamic risk assessment procedure. <i>ALL to wash/ wipe hands before eating.</i> Safety talk to include warning of hazard. First aid kit to be on site and accessible in all situations.	1	2	2

Rubbish	Trips, cuts, entrapments, disease	2	2	4	Children to follow rubbish procedure (do not touch it, report it and put any rubbish in designated bag or back in their own bags).  Site checked and cleaned beforehand where possible by leader as part of dynamic risk assessment. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	2	2
Uneven ground, raised tree stumps, exposed roots, trailing vegetation, slippery leaves, mud	Trips, bruises, bumps	2	2	4	Bramble in immediate proximity of forest school site cleared where possible before first session and then as necessary. Site checked before visit. Visible warnings where /if necessary. Participants and staff advised of hazard and so to take care. Standards of paths to be monitored regularly and be repaired by land owner. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	2	2
Prickly and stinging plants (e.g. holly, brambles, stinging nettles)	Cuts and grazes. splinters	2	1	2	Clear area in the immediate vicinity of activity site if deemed necessary. Talk to children about hazards. Do not use prickly wood such as hawthorn as timber. Dynamic risk assessment to monitor and clear as necessary. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	1	1
Overhanging and low branches	Children hit in face and eyes	2	2	4	Site checked and cleared as required before initial use. Condition of trees and shrubs adjacent to path checked regularly and trimmed back if necessary. Safety talk before session to remind children of the hazard. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	2	2
Poisonous plants and fungi	Poisoning	1	3	3	Site checked as part of dynamic risk assessment procedures. Areas of fungi monitored. Safety talk to make children aware of hazard. <i>Children to wash/ wipe hands before eating and drinking. Role modelled by leaders, staff, parent helpers.</i> Children educated about different types of fungi and role they play in the woodland. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	3	3
Field-level vegetation	Children may get stung or trip	2	2	4	Clear immediate vicinity of site before project begins if deemed necessary. Check paths on regular basis. Clear if necessary. First aid equipment always accessible. Educate participants and staff about natural remedies for stings and what stinging and thorny plants look like as part of session where appropriate. Safety talk to make children aware of hazard.	1	2	2
Dead or dying trees and hung up branches	Head, crush and impact injuries	1	3	3	Fell or notify of any dangerous trees before site plans to be used. Check site before each session for overhead debris as part of dynamic site risk assessment. In high winds do not use site if in doubt regarding safety. If possible, session continued at an indoor location. First aid kit to be carried by teachers and accessible in all situations.	1	3	3

