

St. Mary's CiW School: Weather risk assessment for Forest School

Activity assessed: General weather
Written: July 2022

Next review due: July 2023

By whom: KL, JR, NW, DM

Role: Forest School leader



Hazard	Risk	L 1	S 1	RR 1	Control Measures (aim to alter RR 2)	L 2	S 2	RR 2	Go ahead?
Working in the outdoors	Weather extremes	2	3	6	Weather forecast to be checked in advance by leader and arrangements for the session to be made accordingly. Leader to carry charged mobile phone Appropriate supervision of the group at all times.	2	3	6	Y
Wet weather	wet, cold, cuts if using tools	2	3	6	Use of shelters to protect against the rain. Staff and children wear waterproof coat, trousers, and wellies. Tool use such as sawing, knife work NOT carried out UNLESS under dry shelter and using dry wood/ materials.	1	3	3	Y
Cold weather	hypothermia	1	3	3	Use of shelters to protect from the cold. Emergency group shelter available to be made. Active games etc. during session (adapt plans). Sessions may be shortened or cancelled due to severe cold.	1	3	3	Y
Hot weather	Sunburn, heat stroke, heat exhaustion	2	3	6	Use of shelters to protect against the sun. Children advised to apply sun cream before the session, and sun hats worn or provided. Need to wear long trousers and long sleeved top. Plenty of fluid to drink throughout the session. Children encouraged to rest out of the sun during the session.	1	3	3	Y
Windy weather	Bumps, knocks, concussion	2	3	6	Sessions will be rescheduled in the event of strong winds (measuring over 5 on the Beaufort scale). Dynamic assessment will be made during sessions if the wind becomes stronger. If necessary, sessions will be finished early or group will be moved to indoor space if available.	1	3	3	Y
Thunder and lightning storms	Falling branches/trees, lightning strikes, high winds	2	3	6	Weather forecast checked before session. If known that thunder and lightning storm is forecast, session to be carried out indoors or rescheduled. Session finished early in this circumstance. If indoor shelter is available on site, group to be moved to the indoor shelter.	1	3	3	Y
Snow storms	Hypothermia, slips, disorientation	2	3	6	In snow storm, group to have a clear idea of boundaries on site and be able to see the main camp at all times. Safety systems in place for regular group counts. If the storm becomes too severe (blizzarding snow) and it is safe to do so, the group will be moved off site. Active games and movement so group do not get cold. Session can be moved indoors or rescheduled.	1	3	3	Y
Misty/foggy weather	Disorientation, getting lost, bumps, knocks	1	2	2	Safety systems in place for regular group checks. Supervision of groups. Group members to know what they need to do if they become disorientated. Session can be moved indoors or rescheduled.	1	2	2	Y

Key: L1: Likelihood before control measures

L2: Likelihood after control measures

S1: Severity before control measures

S2: Severity after control measures

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

RR2: Risk Rating after control measures