

Risk Assessment: Forest School Site at Naunton Park

Hazard	Risk level	Action/Management
Mobile phone signal	Low	Leader to check signal on safety sweep. Have another adult present at the session if they need to go inside for an emergency to use a phone if outside signal is weak. Walkie talkies available if needed.
Boundaries	Low	There are fenced off boundaries, which are checked as part of the safety sweep. The children know that they don't leave the reserved area unless they are with an adult. Children know to stay within sight of a responsible adult. Head counts of children are conducted before and after each session. Climbing height set to 1.5 m which is below the level of the fence.
Trees	Low	Conditions of branches checked in safety sweep. Tree surveys are carried out annually along with health and safety procedures.
Low level branches at eye level	Moderate	Children are made aware and reminded regularly that branches/twigs could be a hazard to eyes. There is regular maintenance of site. Not flicking branches is also explained. Any sharp protruding branches are removed.
Protruding tree roots, logs.	Low	Any hazards are pointed out to children or removed if dangerous. Children are briefed on moving safely through site. Pathways are maintained.
Falling deadwood	Low	Leader and ground maintenance team to conduct regular checks of the conditions of any large trees.
Putting things in mouth, berries and poisonous plants	Low	Children are educated on the dangers of putting things in their mouths and know that it is a nil by mouth policy. Children wash hands when they return to school.
Uneven ground	Low	Leader conducts a site sweep before sessions. Children are asked to move safely through site and are made aware of any holes in the ground or trip hazards.
Litter and non-organic matter (Litter can come in from the adjoining public park)	Low	Site sweep conducted and litter is removed by the Forest leader. Children have a safety talk on hazardous litter such as glass not to be touched by them but for general litter they are instructed to put on gloves. Litter pickers are available. Appropriate footwear and clothing are to be worn at all sessions.
Stinging insects	Low	Forest Leader to be aware of any allergies to stings (whole school medical lists in class boxes). Children are educated on insects and plants that can sting, so they learn not to handle them. Suitable clothing to be worn to prevent stings. First aid procedures are followed if a sting occurs.
Inclement weather conditions	Low	Leader to monitor weather conditions and conduct a site sweep before each session. Sessions are to be cancelled in high winds, lightning or severe ice or rain. If conditions change mid-session then the children would return to school and continue activities where possible.
Fire Lighting	Moderate	Children know to walk around any lit fires and to keep a safe distance from them. Any firefighting is supervised by the leader on a 1:1 ratio. Children are taught the correct safety procedures on lighting and extinguishing a fire. Fires are only lit in designated areas that have been approved by the leader. Sand is laid under any fire and a water bucket kept next to it.
Injury	Moderate	There is always an adult supervising that can carry out first aid. The Forest leader is paediatric first aid trained.
Tool Shed	Moderate	Tools are stored away safely and children know they are not to access the shed unless with an adult. Tools in the session are kept in a catch

		closed box and supervised by the leader. Children have to ask for a tool and cannot take one without permission or supervision.
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Risk Benefit

Children develop their fine and gross motor skills through a wide variety of activities. They use the tools with a level 3 practitioner which helps the children understand the process of rule setting and learning tool talk. This enables them to demonstrate how to use each tool with ease and unconscious competence. It allows children the freedom to understand the importance of trust. It's the risk that is involved in using the tools that build positive attitudes and the robust way of working.

Allowing children to take risks such as climbing trees, moving objects, constructing dens etc helps to build their independence and confidence. Nothing is without risk but if the children are showed the safe and proper way to do these activities risks can be minimised.

Exploring nature through all of their senses is fantastic for children to help develop their imaginations and connect to nature. They are taught how to safely pick and collect natural items and learn to respect nature.

Cooking on a campfire encourages children to gain life skills that they can take into their adult lives. They learn how to safely prepare, cook and clean away food and drinks. They understand the dangers of fire and steam and know how to minimise risks themselves which they can use outside of the setting.

Accident and Incident Procedure – Outdoor Learning Environment NPPS

All participants will be briefed in what to do in case of emergency. A whistle will be blown as a signal to stop what you are doing, gather with member of staff, be silent and await instructions. The group leader will assess the situation, the nature and extent of the injury/accident. They will ensure that the rest of the group are safe from danger and are adequately supervised. They will attend to the casualty, giving first aid if necessary. An incident report will be completed later.

In case of injury

If anyone sustains an injury or illness which cannot be treated by first aid on site and requires medical assistance:

- In serious cases, 999 should be dialled using a mobile carried by leader/deputy leader.
- The school office should be notified.
- The school will be responsible for notifying the parent.
- The rest of the group will be supervised away from the incident and if in danger, will be moved to safety before returning to school.
- One member of staff will meet the ambulance at the site entrance (staff car park) and direct the crew to the incident site.
- If the injured child is taken to hospital, one member of staff will go with them if the child's parents are unavailable and will be updated about the situation by the staff contact at school.
- In minor cases, the school office will arrange to contact the parent of the injured child so they can be collected and taken to the hospital, doctor or home.

Emergency contact numbers

Ambulance: 999

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School: 01242 513114

DSL: 07966 034168

Requesting attendance by Emergency Services

Be ready with the following information:

1. Mobile telephone number
2. Details of your location
3. Description of problem/symptoms and how incident occurred