

Risk Assessment - Forest School Sessions. Location: Ellwood School grounds / local forest.

NOTE Sessions will be on the school site depending on need for volunteers and adverse weather conditions.

The Hazard	Location of the Hazard	What might happen?	Who could be harmed?	Potential level of risk occurring	Controls	Level of Risk after controls	Responsibility
Moving large sticks, wood materials	During activities.	Cuts and scratches.	Children and Adults.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. • Supervise to ensure they are working safely. • Ensure sticks are carried down by sides, or dragged – not carried high • Larger sticks require 2 children or adult help. • Children encouraged to wear gloves to protect hands. 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start if session. Children to remind adults of procedures.
Bramble, stinging nettles	Everywhere	Cuts and stings.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. • Remind children of Forest Rules – No Pick, No Lick, No Exiting. 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start if session.
Falling branches, dead wood	Under trees, potentially	Head or other body part.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. • FSL to walk site prior to session • Cancel session in excessive wind. 	Low	FSL and adults.
Mud	Mud pies and painting in digging area.	Mud in eyes. Damage to clothing.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. • Children to wear waterproof clothing or old clothes. 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start if session. Children to remind adults of procedures
Uneven ground	Base camp, under tree.	Slips, trips and falls.	Children and Adults.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. • Recommend no running at base camp. 	Low	FSL and adults. Children to follow rules.
Weather and underfoot conditions	Whole site slightly sloping.	Slips when ground is wet.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before session. * Sweep of area. • Ensure children are wearing appropriate clothing – sensible footwear, waterproof coat and trousers. 	Low	FSL and adults to ensure children are dressed appropriately.

Extreme weather conditions	Whole site.	Sun stroke, hypothermia.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure children have sun hats/warm clothes. • Provide adequate shade. • Ensure sufficient liquids available to all. • Cancel/reduce sessions if weather extremely hot/cold/wet/windy. 	Low	FSL and adults to confer on weather conditions during/before sessions.
Domestic Pet Excrement	Whole site.	Children and adults might slip, touch, ingest, get on clothing.	Children and Adults.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweep area before session. • Remind children of Forest Rules. • Hand washing facilities available – antiseptic wipes/soap and water. • Spare set of clothing on site. 	Low	FSL to do sweep of area. Adults and children to be vigilant and report on anything they found
Stranger danger	Whole site	Child safeguarding	Children and Adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults to be aware • Discuss with children • Greet members from the community ☐ Good for community links. 	Low	FSL assisted by other adults.
Pallets/ made structures	School site	Deterioration due to age.	Children and Adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS leader to check and remove rotten items • Check rope and string knots 	Low	FSL
Tree Climbing	All	Wear and tear	Children / adult	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Must wear long sleeves/trousers • Adult supervision required • Dry weather activity 	Low	FSL
Use of tools	All	Injury	Children and Adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS leader will oversee tool use. • FS will leave capable adults with small groups to do less risky activities. Dynamic risk assessments ongoing. 	Low	FSL Designated leader.

COVID If needed					•		
Cleaning of tools COVID	All	Children and Adults	Children and Adults	Low	☐ FSL will clean tools and equipment between groups where there is less than 72 hours.	Low	FSL
COVID	Whole	Children and Adults	Children and Adults	Low	☐ Hand sanitize before we leave school.	Low	FSL
COVID	Whole site	Meet members of the community	Children and Adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep distance from people and avoid interaction. • Check area 	Low	All
COVID	Whole site	Spread of the virus	Children and adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult helpers are related to the class bubble. • Meet us in the bike shelter and don't come into school. 	Low	All
COVID	Whole site	Children and Adults	Children and Adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should not put hands near mouth anyway. • Wash hands for 20secs with soap and water upon return. • Have hand sanitiser and tissues for emergencies • Keep apart where possible • Catch it bin it kill it. Unwell children will not attend. 	Low	All