

	William Gilpin Forest School Risk Assessment			Title		Risk Assessment	
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GENERIC HAZARDS			PEOPLE	RATING (RISK = L X S)			RISK CONTROL		
A Stairs	B Stair gate	C Doors	1 Employees	SEVERITY (S)	3. HIGH Major Injury/Fatality	3	6	9	HIGH DO NOT PROCEED, Further controls required
D Windows	E Flooring	F Shelves				2 Children	2. MEDIUM Notifiable Injury	2	
G Small movable objects	H Knives	I Cooker	3 Visitors		1. LOW Minor Injury			1	2
J Water	K Food	L Chemicals/Harmful substances		4 Public		LIKELIHOOD (L) 1 LOW 2 MED' 3 HIGH			
M Fire	N Electric sockets	O Lifting/stooping / twisting trunk							
P Cars	Q Visitors	R Strangers							
S Estranged parent	T Climbing	U Child exiting the building unsupervised							
V Radiators	W Animals	X Chicken pen							
Y Tool	Z Plants	A1 Rubbish							
B1 Lost Child	C1 Uneven pathways and protruding roots	D1 Branches at eye level							
E1 Falling deadwood	F1 Wasps & Bees	G1 Extreme cold weather							
H1 Extreme hot weather	I1 Extreme high wind	J1 Claustrophobia/Fear of the dark							
K1 Falling objects	L1 Pallets, crates and reels	M1 Wooden planks							
N1 Ropes									

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RISK	PEOPLE AFFECTED	UNCONTROLLED RISK RATING			CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK RATING		
				L	S	R		L	S	R
Children arriving/leaving/ waiting in car park	P - Cars	Being hit by a car	2	2	3	6	Staff and children follow the 'Leaving' and 'Returning' to School procedures as outlined in the School's P&P e.g. walking in pairs with an adult at the head and rear of the line. Parents asked to drive with caution and slowly when entering and exiting the car park.	1	2	2
Walking to/from the woodland	J – water (troughs /puddles)	Drowning	2	1	3	3	The depth of puddles is monitored and an adult is always with the group and will supervise this activity.	1	1	1



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Walking to/from the woodland	J – water (troughs /puddles)	Becoming wet and very cold	2	3	1	3	Children must be wearing appropriate clothing e.g. water proofs and wellies.	1	1	1
Walking around the woodland	C1 - Uneven pathways, protruding roots and holes	Injury	1 & 2	3	2	6	<p>Children must wear appropriate clothing i.e. sturdy shoes or boots, long trousers and tops and, in autumn and winter, water proof clothing.</p> <p>Children are taught during their initial visit, how to walk around the woods and what to look out for i.e. animal burrows, roots, brambles, ivy, sticks etc.</p> <p>Children who are more anxious about moving around the woodland are helped and supported by a member of staff until their confidence and ability grows.</p> <p>Key meeting and activity sites are located in the most suitable areas with less ground cover, brambles and animal holes.</p> <p>The woodland is inspected before every session commences to check for any new risks and then appropriate action is taken e.g. remove the risk or alert the children to the new risk and how to manage it appropriately.</p>	2	2	4
Walking in and around the woodland	D1 – branches at eye level		1 & 2	3	2	6	<p>As above (C1).</p> <p>Any branches that are deemed to be particularly dangerous (e.g. sharp points sticking out) are cut or sawn off. However some head level branches are left to help teach the children how to move around the woodland and help them develop their spatial awareness.</p>	2	2	4
Walking and sitting in and around the woodland	E1 – falling deadwood		1 & 2	3	3	9	<p>The woodland is inspected before every session commences to check for any new risks and then appropriate action is taken e.g. remove the risk, alert the children to the new risk and how to manage it appropriately or, if necessary, cancel the session.</p> <p>If there is high wind the session may be moved to the playing field to avoid the risk of falling branches and trees.</p>	1	3	3
Investigation of plant life in and around the	L – Chemicals /harmful	Eating poisonous plants	2	2	2	4	Children are taught not to eat any fruit, berry or leaf without checking with an adult first. Any fruit (e.g. blackberries) gathered is passed to the supervising staff to be checked and they are then washed before the children can eat them.	1	2	2



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woodland	substances						Children are taught not to touch any fungi and why this is important. If they do touch any fungi they are taught to tell an adult and to wash their hands thoroughly. If they wish to handle the fungi they are given disposable rubber gloves. Children taught not to put their fingers in their mouths during Forest School sessions.			
Investigation of plant life in and around the woodland	L – Chemicals /harmful substances	Being stung by stinging nettles	2	3	1	3	Children must wear appropriate clothing i.e. sturdy shoes or boots, long trousers and tops and, in autumn and winter, water proof clothing. Children are taught how to identify and avoid stinging nettles. If a child is stung by a nettle the child is comforted and the area is sprayed with cold water from the first aid kit.	2	1	2
Walking to/from and around the woodland	F1 - Wasps and bees	Being stung by a wasp or bee	2	3	2	6	Children must wear appropriate clothing i.e. sturdy shoes or boots, long trousers and tops and, in autumn and winter, water proof clothing. Carry personal medication for those children who are allergic to these stings. Children taught how to identify wasps and bees and how to move calmly away from them, without upsetting or touching the insects.	2	1	2
Walking to/from and around the woodland	W – Animals (e.g. fox, deer, rabbit, badger)	Disease, animal attack	2	1	2	2	Children taught not to approach or touch wild animals if they find them in the woods but to tell an adult and wait for further instruction. Children taught how to identify animal faeces, not to touch it with their hands and to tell an adult about their findings e.g. badger poo.	1	1	1
Walking to/from and around the woodland	W – Animals (e.g. ticks and	Lime disease	1 & 2	2	2	4	Children must wear appropriate clothing i.e. sturdy shoes or boots, long trousers and tops and, in autumn and winter, water proof clothing. Check legs for ticks especially after being on long grass where animals graze.	1	2	2



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	parasites)									
Walking to/from and around the woodland	Rubbish – A1	Injury	2	3	2	6	Children are supervised at all times and taught not to touch rubbish but to notify and adult if they find some. The adult will either collect the rubbish in a rubbish bag using latex gloves and take it back to school or, if the rubbish can not be disposed of in this way, removed it from the main area or cordon off this area.	1	2	2
Walking to/from and around the woodland	Lost Child – B1	Lost Child	2	2	3	6	Children are supervised at all times and are taught to stay within the boundary of the woodland. When walking to the woods there are always two adults with the group and one in the woods to greet them. Children are regularly counted during the session and on arrival and departure, to check that everyone is accounted for. If a child is discovered to be missing the 'Lost Child Policy' would be followed.	1	3	3
Walking to/from and around the woodland	R - Strangers	Abduction	2	2	3	6	Children are supervised at all time and the staff are taught to be vigilant for both potential hazards and the presence of strangers.	1	3	3
All activities outdoors	G1 – extreme cold weather	Severe distress and Hypothermia	1 & 2	3	2	6	Weather forecast is checked regularly and suitable activities are chosen with reference to this e.g. walk or very physical activities in very cold conditions. Children are only permitted to go to Forest School if their clothing is deemed appropriate for the current weather conditions e.g. snow boots, thick socks, hats and gloves. Spare hats and gloves, blankets, sleeping bag and hot water bottles are packed in the FS Land Rover. Hot drinks and food are provided.	1	1	1



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							<p>Children are taught how to keep themselves warm, by keeping active, wearing their gloves and hat.</p> <p>If children are particularly cold they may be warmed up using the sleeping bag and blankets. If a child is deemed not to be coping with the cold and is unable to keep warm assistance will be called for e.g. their parent</p>			
All activities outdoors	H1 – extreme hot weather	Heat stroke/over heating/dehydration	1 & 2	3	2	6	<p>Weather forecast is checked regularly and suitable activities are chosen with reference to this e.g. calm activities in the shade, with regular breaks.</p> <p>Children are only permitted to go to Forest School if their clothing is deemed appropriate for the current weather conditions e.g. sunhat, long sleeve tops and trousers.</p> <p>Parents are asked to apply sun cream to their children before each session.</p> <p>Cold drinks are provided to keep the children hydrated.</p>	1	1	1
All activities outdoors	I1 – extreme high winds	Falling trees and branches	1 & 2	2	3	6	<p>In high winds the trees will be assessed for the risk of falling branches and if the risk is deemed to be too high, forest school will be relocated to the playing field.</p>	1	3	3
Running into ropes used to make shelters by FS Leaders	N1 - Ropes	Friction burns and welts	1 & 2 & 3	2	1	2	<p>If a temporary shelter(s) need to be erected we will highlight the location of these at the start of the session and remind the children to be mindful as they move around and between them. Looking out for guide ropes securing the bottom of the tarps as well as any ridge line ropes.</p> <p>If using waist to head height ropes can't be avoided to support temporary shelters, we would make sure that we attached caution markers to the low level ropes. As well as highlighting them to the children.</p>	1	1	1



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