

Berkswich CE Forest school risk assessment

Assessment conducted by: Chelsey Allen	Job title: Forest School Lead	Covered by this assessment: Teachers, teaching assistants/volunteers/ supervising adults and pupils.
Date of assessment: July 2021	Review interval: Annually (or if any circumstances alter)	Date of next review: July 2022

Related documents
Health and Safety Policy, Medical Needs Policy, Administering Medication Policy, Accident Reporting Procedures, Fire Safety Checklist, Fire Safety Policy, Fire Safety Risk Assessment, Outdoor Education and Off-site Education Policy

Risk rating		Likelihood of occurrence		
		Probable	Possible	Remote
Likely impact	Major Causes major physical injury, harm or ill-health.	High (H)	H	Medium (M)
	Severe Causes physical injury or illness requiring first aid.	H	M	Low (L)
	Minor Causes physical or emotional discomfort.	M	L	L

Nature of hazard	Risk rating prior to action	Who is at risk?	Control measures	Action required	Actioned by and When
Slips, trips and falls.	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Outdoor environment is checked to ensure dangerous objects or spillages are not present. Children and staff are encouraged to keep areas clean, picking up litter where required. Teachers have first aid kits available at all times. Children are wear appropriate footwear for outdoor activities.	Make children aware of safety expectations before activities are carried out. Instructor to continually observe the area and move items in the case of causing serious harm. Accidents reported and followed up in accordance with school policies and procedures.	C Allen 25.07.21

Weather and extreme conditions	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Activity is only carried out if weather outdoors is safe. Appropriate PPE to be worn as protection for weather occasions, including sun cream during summer time and waterproofs if wet. Wind speed in area is checked against the Beaufort Scale to ensure area of activity is safe.	Check weather prior to activity being completed. If wind speed is moving branches, the coppice area will not be used.	C Allen 25.07.21
Bites, Stings and food allergies	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Ensure first aid kit is on hand. All adults to be aware of individual's medical needs. Adults will take the medication, such as inhalers, for children who have medical needs, a Health Care Plan or IHCP. The plans will also be available so that allergies are fully known by all adults.	Relief spray/antihistamine only to be administered in keeping with the school's medication policy. Seek medical advice if so needed.	C Allen 25.07.21
Fire pit See separate fire pit risk assessment for more detail	M	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Make children aware to the area and potential hazards and the set rules when using a fire, including: • safe sitting distance • safe clothing/hair • hazards involved in food preparation	Fire pit is checked prior to sessions to ensure safe working order. Sufficient water is available and fire lighting resources are kept to a minimum (only as much as necessary). Children adhere fully with the set rules and do not continue with the activities if they cannot do so. Children to sit around designated fire circle and not to approach fire unless instructed to and supervised by adult. Fires are extinguished under direct supervision of the lead adult who is responsible for checking that the fires is completely out.	C Allen 25.07.21
Foreign/ Sharp objects	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Outdoor environment is checked for items that could cause harm.	Remove any such items	C Allen 25.07.21

Shelters/ Dens	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Shelters/Dens are checked for stability before children have access. Areas inside shelter/dens are checked inside prior to children's use..	Any foreign items are removed from inside. Make children aware of safety measures when accessing shelters/dens. Make children aware of behavior expectations when accessing shelters/dens	C Allen 25.07.21
Toileting	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Children to be asked to go to the toilet before leaving school if in the coppice. Children must be supervised during activities at the correct ratios; therefore, a member of staff will be called from school (by mobile) to collect and return a child needing the toilet if an adult cannot be freed from the activities to do so.	School toilets to be used when needed.	C Allen 25.07.21
Contact with water (pond area)	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Instructor to make children aware prior to activities/areas that they need to be cautious of.	Supervision at all times.	C Allen 25.07.21
Death/ Serious accident/ Near miss (See RIDDOR)	L	Participants Children Staff Helpers	Follow policies and procedures.	Record and accident/injury.	C Allen 25.07.21