



FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES RISK ASSESSMENT

FOREST SCHOOL

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL(LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTION
Exploring the site, uneven ground, branches, tree roots, shrubs at eye level.	Medium	Children well supervised, awareness talks and reminders. Staff always carry first Aid kit and mobile phone.
Missing child/ Child may wander off during session	Low	Children told boundaries and asked to repeat. Regular regrouping.
Bites and stings from Bees and wasps and nettles.	low	Children warned not to try catch bees and wasps and made aware of nettles. Long trousers and long sleeves to be worn with appropriate footwear. Nettles to be cleared.
Allergies /existing conditions	low	All staff to be aware of any known allergies or existing conditions and aware of treatment.
Mushroom/fungi	low	Ensure children do not eat anything they find. Keep hands out of mouths .Anti – bacterial gel on hand. Obvious mushrooms removed.
Poisonous plants	low	Site to be inspected daily. Staff to be aware of poisonous plants. Children to keep hands out of their mouth. Anti- bacterial gel on hand.
Building dens/activities using sticks and branches	Low	Children to be aware of dangers and carry/hold sticks carefully being aware of others. Injuries to be dealt with accordingly.
Animal droppings	low	Children made aware not to touch or pick up animal droppings. Anti – bacterial gel on hand.

Fallen Branches	low	Site checked daily. All dangerous fallen branches removed.
Tools/saws/drills/knives	High	Safety talk given and repeated. Close supervision. Tools used on 1:1 basis. Tools stored securely away when not in used.
Fire lighting	High	Safety talk given prior to lighting fire with reminder of rules for the fire circle. Fire circle laid out with clear boundaries. Children invited into the circle 1:1. Water available at the fire. All sticks to be collected before the fire is lit. Only staff to light the fire.
Cooking food	High	As above. Any food cooked will be under close supervision. Make sure food is cooled before children eat it.

RIVER WALKS AND ACTIVITIES

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL(LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH)	ACTION
Injury from slips, trips, falls	Low	Group leader to give safety talk about not running near the riverbank, careful feet placement and the wearing of appropriate footwear. Group leader will carry first aid kit and mobile phone in case of emergency.
Falling in the river	Low	Staff to be briefed by group leader on location of life rings and any other safety devices. Students warned about the dangers of going near the edge of the river unsupervised.

		<p>Staff ratio 1:3</p> <p>All students informed of the need to stay within a certain visible area of the riverbank. If conditions allow and students are permitted to paddle, students must be informed to go no more than ankle deep into the river.</p> <p>If conditions allow for fishing nets to be taken, remind students of the dangers of leaving nets and other objects laying around near the edge of the water.</p> <p>Group leader will carry first aid kit and mobile phone in case of emergency.</p>
High river levels and turbulent flow	Low	<p>Pre checks will be carried out by group leader. Measuring the river levels and gauging the flow rate.</p> <p>If level is deemed to be too high, river walk will be postponed.</p>
Hypothermia	Low	<p>Appropriate clothing to be worn.</p> <p>If student falls in river and hypothermia is suspected. Warm drinks and extra layers will be supplied until emergency services arrive.</p> <p>Group leader to carry first aid kit and mobile phone in case of emergency.</p>