

SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

Site name: Wild Garden, Nettlebed Community School, High Street, Nettlebed, RG9 5DA

Assessment carried out by: Diana Mills

Date: Sept 2019

Location grid reference: SU698866

Review Date: Sept 2020



RISK BENEFIT: There is much for the group to learn throughout their forest school session in relation to the physical environment, wildlife and general wellbeing. Children build an awareness for hazards that may change on a daily basis, they learn how to adapt their behaviour for the wildlife and environment, how to stay safe, deal their changing climate etc and this can open up many important avenues of social emotional and physical development, during the sessions, and within daily life.

The Forest School Leader is responsible for checking the site and assessing all and any risks prior to the session, warning others and taking appropriate action. All adult present have a duty to continually assess risks and highlight any concerns or issues to the FS Leader, or Head Teacher

HAZARDS	RISKS	AT RISK	INITIAL RISK LEVEL	ACTION PROPOSED	NEW LEVEL OF RISK
Travel to Wild Area: Playground Surface Climbing frame Large Iron Gates Missing/runaway child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tripping, falling, grazes, cuts, - Limbs/fingers trapped in gates - Falls from climbing frame - broken bones, bruising - Runaway child accessing climbing frame, falling and not being found 	All	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group to understand playground apparatus is off limits unless it is playtime - Group encouraged to walk slowing to FS site, particularly in adverse weather when ground may be wet/slippery/icy - Gates to be open and group encouraged not to touch/play with them - Group encouraged to talk to adult if they need to leave the group - Adults to supervise/observe transition from class to FS site - if possible play a game, give the children a purpose 	A
Other people using the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest School site is in the wild garden, inside the school's walled garden. - No public right of way to the school walled garden. Other access via a door from next door churchyard into playground - Other staff members and children from the school plus occasional visitors from other schools. - Contractors in the form of maintenance, e.g. grass cutting, tree work. - Very little risk of others using site 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Public Access. Access via school playground and iron gates from Sue Ryder Hospice gardens. Both gates are locked with a padlock when not in use - Children made aware that any adult within school grounds will be wearing an ID lanyard and badge. - Adults aware of where children are, children supervised at all times, - Supervision ratio of adults:children maintained for all sessions. - FS leaders made aware if the school have any visitors onsite - this will then be communicated to the group - Include observation of other users in site check before sessions commence. - Move Forest School area or reduce area use for the session/cancel if necessary. 	
Boundaries around the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walled garden has 10ft high wall and 2 wrought iron gates (see above) - Wild garden boundaries include hazel stick picket fencing around half of the perimeter, the other half is 10 foot wall - Risks of impalement, splinters, bruises, cuts, scratches, general injury 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children involved in boundary agreements and to stay within agreed boundaries. - Children alerted to fencing, shown where it is and reminded not to touch, go through the gaps in the wood - point out to adults if fence broken/damaged - Notify headteacher and caretaker if fencing, gates, walls found in a poor state of repair. 	

RISKS	HAZARDS	AT RIS K	INITIAL RISK LEVEL	ACTION PROPOSED	NEW LEVEL OF RISK
GROUND LAYER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden logs lying in the grass • Broken glass, rubbish and rusty metal • Fungi • Animal faeces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piles of logs hidden under grass, brambles and nettles around the site -injury from trips and falls - risk of cuts, scratches, tetanus - Fungi has been observed on site and in other areas of the school grounds - risk of sickness if ingested - Risk of illness, sickness, blindness (dog faeces) 	All	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate child on hazards and risks, and how to stay safe - dynamic risk assessment with participants - No dogs allowed on site, and no access to public - Site check carried out before every session - Remove hazards (e.g. litter, broken glass, where possible) and dispose of them appropriately. - Engage children in litter picking with relevant PPE - First aid trained adult always present and first aid kit on site. - Ensure all aware of tetanus risks and medical forms up to date with who is vaccinated - <i>See Pond Risk Benefit</i> 	A
FIELD LAYER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poisonous plants • Brambles, stinging nettles • Phototoxic plants, e.g. Hogweed • Non native invasive plants, e.g. Japanese Knotweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cuts, grazes, slips trip and falls, broken bones, sprained limbs - Stings, skin reactions to plants - Possibly grass allergies 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate children on species ID, importance of not picking/eating without discussing plants with leader. - Watch wet walking, washing hands before eating - No poisonous, or non native invasive plants identified yet - discuss hygiene and no eating/licking - Ongoing species ID 	
SHRUB LAYER Branches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sticking out at eye level - at head height - spikes on blackthorn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low and sticking out branches from sapling trees and ivy growing out from other trees - Many Blackthorn saplings with spiky branches and trunks - Risks of scratches, eye damage, punctures 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site check carried out before each session. Remove any hazards where possible and move to a safe location. - Dangerous trees/ branches reported to the headteacher and land owner. - Educate children on different trees, what to touch, not touch, wear gloves - Do not use the site in high winds. Dynamic risk assessment. - Establish "no go" areas if necessary. - <i>*see Risk Benefit assessment 'collecting natural materials' & 'ecological impact'</i> 	

CANOPY LAYER Deadwood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in overhead trees - standing/leaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standing deadwood on site, and deadwood attached to trees - risk of branches falling, injury to head/body from falling branches, or children falling from rotten logs 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site check carried out before each session. Remove any hazards where possible and move to a safe location - rope off unsafe areas - Dangerous trees/ branches reported to the headteacher and land owner. - Do not use the site in high winds. Dynamic risk assessment. 	
OTHER HAZARDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter • Fire Site • Benches/Seating • Wildlife onsite • Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Round house has a low entrance. Inside there are railway sleepers for seating. - Fire area established - possible risks of trips and falls from logs, railway sleepers, injury to limbs, head - No benches onsite as yet - this will be discussed and possibly made with the children - Evidence of birds and voles; likely to be more animals on site but not seen or found evidence. - Walled garden and gates prevent deer from entering - faeces or dead animals pose risk to heath - illness/ sickness - Pond present on site, rear access is protected by a mound/sloping ground and an apple tree. Access to the pond is via a paved path and paved dipping area at the front of the pond. - Sloping ground to the rear of the pond - risk of slipping - Risk of drowning/getting wet, hypothermia in colder weather 	All	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site check to be carried out before each session for stability, security and safety of all structures. - Any unstable or unsafe structures must be repaired/made safe - rope off as 'no go' area in the meantime and educate whole group - Include participants in ongoing dynamic risk assessment. - Hand washing procedure followed. - Ongoing species ID (tracking, prints, faeces ID etc) - <i>See Pond Risk Benefit for specifics</i> 	A