

Risk Assessment - Forest School Session

Location: Ellwood School grounds / local forest.

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 on shoulders. • Larger sticks require 2 children or adult help. • Children encouraged to wear gloves to protect hands. 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start of session. Children to remind adults of procedures.
Bramble, Bracken, 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, Careful with that stick. • Point out particular items if necessary 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start of session. Constant reminder through the year
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. • Flicking/throwing mud not allowed 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start of 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 at base camp.
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 find during the session.
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.
Use of pallets/larger pieces of wood	Whole site – manly in garden area	Cuts and scratches. Slips, trips and falls.	Children and Adults	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult to check condition of the wood • Safety talk before first session. • Supervise to ensure the material is in a reasonable and safe condition • Ensure equipment is carried down by sides, or dragged – not carried on shoulders. • Larger equipment requires 4 children one child at each corner '1,2,3 lift.' '1,2,3, down' watch toes. (or adult help.) 	Low	FSL to do safety talk at start of first session of use. Adults to remind children of the procedures.

Slackline	School Field	Slips, trips and falls.	Children	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before first use • Adult to check Slack line regularly to check it is in a safe condition . • Only 4 children allowed on the Slackline at a time 	Low	FSL to check the Slackline Adults to remind children of the procedures. Adults encourage proper use.
Pond/open water	School Garden	Drowning	Children	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate locked when not in use • Supervision by adult when near pond/water • Safety talk to children prior to use 	Low	Adults to remind children of the procedure and behaviour expectations.
Crossing the Road	Off site	Car collision	Children and adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually cross the road at the same time in one long line. • FSL leads, models and we cross together. • Alternatively adult stands in the clear road and we cross in pairs. Adult stops traffic. • Adults wear High Viz 	Low	FSL and Adults.
Walking up the road	Offsite	Car Collision	Children and adults	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children walk in pairs • Keep to the side of the road • Adults aware of potential traffic. 	Low	FSL and Adults.
Tree Climbing	All	Wear and tear	Children / adult	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must wear long sleeves/trousers • Adult supervision required • Dry weather activity 	Low	FSL
Use of tools (More details found in the FS handbook)	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.
Fire	All	Burns Spread of fire	Children and Adults	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only when conditions allow (NOT when windy or in drought) • Safety every time, long hair tied back, fuel from the side not above. • Always monitored by adult, • Burns first aid kit. • Water in case of burns or to put out the fire. 	Low	FSL

Risk Assessment for Tools – Forest School

Location: Ellwood School grounds and in local forest.

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
Mallet	In Forest School area during activity using mallets.	Hit thumb or fingers.	Children and Adults.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk before each session involving this tool. • Instruction on proper use. • Wear glove on hand holding object to be hit. • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL to oversee small group work. Other adults to receive training.
Potato Peeler	In designated tool area.	Could cut any part of hands, especially fingers.	Children and Adults.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety talk and instruction on proper use of tools: working the tool away from the body. • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL (or trained adult when children confident) under direct supervision with group.
Knife	In designated tool area.	Could cut fingers and other body parts.	Children and Adults.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pen knives will only be used on a one to one basis with FSL in the designated tool area. • Instructional and safety talk to be given before the tools are used. • Always work with knife away from you and fold away when not in use. • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL under direct supervision one to one.

Bow Saw	In designated tool area.	Could cut hands and other body parts.	Children and Adults.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper instructional use of tool: wear a glove on the non-sawing hand. • One to one/two (as two children may be working together) for safety. • Use a saw horse for stability. Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL under direct supervision one to one/two.
Bilhook	In designated tool area.	Could cut hands or other body parts.	Children and Adults.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper instructional use of tool: wear glove on the hand holding the object. • Use on a one to one basis with an adult. • Use cutting away from body. • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL under direct supervision one to one.
Hand Drill	In designated tool area.	Could pierce skin with pointed end.	Children and Adults.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper instructional use of tool and demonstration. • One to one/two (children may work together). • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL under direct supervision one to one/two. (Other adult if trained)
Hammer and Nails	In designated tool area.	Could hit hand.	Children and Adults.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper instructional use of tool. • One to one basis. • Safe storage of tool when not in use: in designated tool area in locked box. 	Low	FSL under direct supervision one to one.