Forest School Risk Assessment

Visit Details: **Forest School Session in Sunnyhurst Woods**

Forest School Lead: **Cheryl Braysford**

Group Name:

Group Size: **Children:** **Adults:**

Group Leader Mobile:

Date:

ISSUE *List significant hazards which may result in serious harm or affect more than one person.* *Consider venue, activity, group, transport, plan B etc.*	**HOW TO MANAGE IT** *What procedures will we have? (Control Measures)*	**RISK BENEFITS** *Does the benefit out way the risk?*	**PARENTS**	**STAFF**	**PUPILS**	**LEVEL OF RISK AFTER CONTROL**
Walking off the premises.	Pupils to leave school accompanied by staff. We will leave the yard via the Hindle Street Entrance (from Infant Yard). We will walk along Salisbury Road and enter Sunnyhurst Woods via the disabled entrance on Earnsdale Road.	Yes – Significant benefits to pupils being in the woodland environment. Pupils experience being in the community and crossing the road safely.				LOW
Walking on the footpath and crossing roads.	Pupils to walk in pairs, adults to be at the head, middle and rear of the group. Pupils to walk along the pavement and away from the road. Adults to stand at the road side. Pupils to cross the road under adult supervision.	Yes – Significant benefits to pupils being in the woodland environment. Pupils experience being in the community and crossing the road safely.				LOW

Adult to pupil ratio.	1 adult per 15 children. Forest School Lead to headcount the group at the beginning, middle and end of each session. Adults to headcount before and after crossing the road.	Yes – Significant benefits to pupils being in the woodland environment.				LOW
First Aid arrangements / emergency contact.	2 small First Aid Kits to be taken during each session, Forest School Lead will also take biodegradable wipes and hand sanitiser. First Aider, Cheryl Braysford. School to be contacted and any incident reported to parents via the school office.	Yes – Significant benefits to pupils being in the woodland area.				LOW
Medical Conditions	Forest School Lead and other adults to know of existing medical conditions prior to session. Inhalers taken by class teacher for those pupils who require one.	Yes – Promotes independence for pupils. Pupils learn to achieve despite medical conditions.				LOW
Exploring the woodland area, uneven ground, branches and tree roots on the ground. Branches and shrubs at eye level.	Pupils well supervised, awareness talks and reminders pre and during session. Appropriate footwear and clothing to be worn.	Yes – Promoting physical development and awareness of the difference in surroundings. Pupils encouraged to be self-aware and also support their peers.				LOW
Pupil gets lost / become separated from the group.	Boundaries are explained to the pupils once in designated woodland area. Ask children to repeat boundaries and Forest School Rules. Regular Headcounts.	Yes – Pupils recognise the importance of following rules and working as part of a team. Pupils encouraged to build trusting relationships with one another.				LOW
Public or dogs approaching	Pupils made aware pre and during Forest School Sessions that they do not approach dogs or touch them. Pupils do not talk to strangers in the woodland area.	Yes – Significant benefits to pupils being in the woodland area.				LOW

Stings from nettles.	Appropriate clothing to be worn at all times. Pupils to be made aware of stinging nettles.	Yes – Pupils have the opportunity to learn about different plants. Pupils display a positive attitude towards nature and aren't afraid of it.				LOW
Mushrooms, Fungi and Poisonous Plants.	Forest School Rules are explained pre and during session. Pupils are told not to eat anything in the woodland area and must clean hands if they have touched mushrooms or fungi. Pupils are told not to pick anything that is living and growing. Pupils to keep fingers away from their mouth.	Yes – Pupils have the opportunity to learn about the different types of mushroom and fungi through information identification books.				LOW
Building Dens or other activities using sticks and branches.	Pupils to be aware of dangers and carry sticks carefully, being aware of others around them. Injures to be dealt with accordingly.	Yes – Pupils have the opportunity to work as part of a team, to problem solve and scaffold each other's learning. Provides opportunity to develop fine and gross motor skills.				LOW
Animal Faeces.	Pupils made aware not to touch any animal faeces. Wipes and antibacterial gel to be used in the event of.	Yes – Forest School Leader to ensure that there is a hand cleaning and sanitising provision.				LOW
Weather (hot, cold, wet, windy, snow and ice).	Pupils to wear clothes that are appropriate to the weather and terrain. Pupils to have sun cream. Pupils encouraged to engage in physical activity to keep warm. Use the woodland area that offers shelter (Bandstand). Cancel Forest School Sessions if weather is too extreme and unsafe.	Yes – Significant benefits to being in the woodland environment. Pupils learn to manage risks in adverse weather conditions.				LOW
Stream / River.	Pupils made aware pre and during session if they are able to play in the river on the day. Water play will be based on the weather conditions and the flow of the river.	Yes – Pupils can learn to manage their own risks whilst exploring and navigating in water.				LOW

Fire.	Safe fire lighting technique wills be explained / demonstrated to pupils by Forest School Lead. Fire to be contained in fire pit at school, never in the woodland area. Fire circle laid out with clear boundaries. Pupil asked to repeat boundaries and fire rules. Pupils only invited into the fire circle by the Forest School Lead. Water, fire blanket and appropriate first aid kit to be available at all times. Forest School Lead to ensure pupils have no loose clothing or hair. Pupils to be supervised by Forest School Lead when lighting fires.	Yes – Pupils learn to be aware of danger and risk taking as well as learning how to light and maintain a fire safely. Pupils develop an awareness and respect of fire.				MEDIUM
Cooking Food.	As per fire lighting above. Any foods cooked will be under the supervision of the Forest School Lead and Forest School Lead will ensure that food is cool enough to eat.	Yes – Pupils learning new life skills.				MEDIUM
Small Tools Hammers, Knives, Saws.	Safety talk given by Forest School Lead. Pupils asked to repeat rules of use. Forest School Lead to supervise tool use. Forest School Lead to count how many tools are taken out for use and ensure the same amount are returned at the end of the session.	Yes – Pupils learn new skills whist building confidence.				MEDIUM
Larger Tools Loppers, Bow Saw, Billhook.	Safety talk given by Forest School Lead. Pupils asked to repeat rules of use. Forest School to supervise all tool use closely. Forest School Lead to count how many tools are taken out for use and	Yes – Pupils learn new skills whilst building confidence. Supports hand and eye co-ordination. Provides a risk-taking experience in a safe environment.				MEDIUM

	ensure the same amount are returned at the end of the session.					
Person could come into contact with an allergen for the first time and experience an unexpected allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.	Staff to be aware that anaphylaxis can occur in someone with **no previously known allergy**. Staff supervising the trip should know the signs of anaphylaxis (think ABC) and the school's emergency procedures. Carry appropriate first-aid equipment including Adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) and ensure a mobile phone is available to summon emergency assistance. IF IN DOUBT, GIVE ADRENALINE. DO NOT WAIT FOR THE REACTION TO BECOME SEVERE Supervising staff have all had anaphylactic training. Equipment checked before attending trip. All staff know central point for kit to be stored whilst on the trip.					LOW

Low Risk: Something which may result in a minor injury or slight harm (i.e. scratch or bruise)
Medium Risk: Something which may result in a significant injury (broken bone or other injury that requires hospital treatment)
High Risk: Something which may result in extensive injury or death

You must also ensure that appropriate persons are aware of any generic procedures, but these do not need to be repeated here. The activity must only take place if the residual risk following implementation of control measures is deemed to be acceptable.