

Risk Management Policy

Review Date: August 2022

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.



Willow Banks Forest School aims to develop children's self-esteem, independence and motivation to learn in a safe environment. In order that these aims can be met, the Forest School Leader will:

- Consistently apply the 5 step approach to risk assessment for all Forest School activities:
 - Look out for hazards
 - Decide who may be harmed and how
 - Evaluate the risks and decide whether existing controls are adequate or whether more should be done
 - Record findings, including daily amendments to standing risk assessments based on site visits and observations
 - Review assessments on a regular basis (or if circumstances change, which may affect the rigour of the assessment) and revise if necessary

Carry out site risk assessments on each site where the activities will take place on a seasonal basis

Daily pre-visit checks will be carried out by the Forest School Leader on sites to be used prior to a day's activities, as near to the start of the activity as is reasonably practicable. The finding will be recorded on a Daily Risk Assessment form.

Complete an Activity Risk/benefit assessment for every activity to be undertaken at Forest School.

Ensure all staff and volunteer helpers have read the relevant Site and Activity risk assessments prior to the session.

Stop activities, if in the opinion of the Forest School Leader, weather conditions such as high winds or the threat of electrical storms make practice unsafe.

Inform staff, volunteers and children of potential hazards and methods of working in order to minimise their risk further

Involve staff, volunteers and children in risk assessment, as appropriate, as part of learning.

Ensure legal guidelines regarding off site activities, adequate insurance and parental permissions are met.

Ensure that all staff, volunteers and children are aware of the emergency procedures for the Forest School site.

Be responsible for teaching children adequate skills in order to keep themselves safe, particularly in relation to the use of hand tools and fire.

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Ensure children and adults will have access to drinking water during sessions.

Ensure a nil-by-mouth policy is adopted in all Forest School sessions – except for food cooked as part of a fully risk assessed Forest School activity.