

**Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School**  
**General Site Use and Group Risk Assessment**

Location: RINS Devonshire Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9HE		Name: Stacey Hill Level 3 Forest School Leader				Date: 10 Sept 2022 Review: Annually		
<b>Description of site:</b> Go Wild sessions take place on the school site, essentially on areas surrounding the school playground. The school grounds are fully enclosed by fencing and locked gated access. Access is via approval from office staff only. 'Green space' is limited and boundaries include a public park, walkway, a junior school adjacent to the area and housing that backs onto the side of the Go Wild area. The grounds include a small grassed area with a downward sloping gradient, a larger downward sloping area of grass, hedgerows with brambles, ivy, holly on external fencing and areas of hawthorn, and elder on the housing side of the boundary. A hazel, birch, and ash tree are widely spread. Several saplings have been planted (May 2022). Pupils register as usual in classrooms before commencing their session outdoors. There are no toilet facilities outdoors, therefore pupils will use classroom toilets in the school building. A daily site assessment is completed.								
<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Harm</i>	<i>People at risk</i>	<i>Probability</i>	<i>Severity</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Preventative measures in place</i>	<i>Further Measures to be taken</i>	<i>Who is responsible?</i>
Cold and wet weather	Potential hypothermia	All	2	4	8	All participants provided with kit list outlining clothing requirements.  Full waterproofs available for all attendees and trousers for staff.  FS leader to be aware of daily weather report before beginning activities  Use of outdoor classroom for shelter.	Limit session if very cold – plan for internal contingency  Extra clothing available in school.  Contingency plan in place for indoor learning	FS LEADER to determine length of session.
High Winds	Injury from falling branches, loose equipment	All	3	3	6	Sessions will not take place in high winds.	FS Leader to decide before the group leave school building.	FS LEADER HT
Hot weather	Dehydration, sunburn	All	3	3	6	All participants provided with uniform/ clothing requirements. Hats to be encouraged in hot weather. Parents made aware of schools suncream requirements (to be applied before school) FS Lead aware of daily weather forecast. Use of outdoor classroom – shade	Limit outdoor access in extreme hot weather. Encourage use of shade. Pupils (and staff) encouraged to drink regularly.	FS lead to determine length of session. All staff to encourage safe areas to learn.

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Poor Health and Welfare Medical problems i.e. allergies	Unhappiness/ mental or emotional distress	All	2	2	4	Leader to provide appropriate advice and good group management. Ensure regular snack and/or drink breaks <b>Food and drink must not be shared between children or adults.</b>	Leader to ensure all medical info and allergy details are correctly identified. Ensure drinks are available.	School to ensure all medical forms are completed and signed. Ensure adequate supervision levels for session.
Accident or health problem occurring	Range of injuries possible – grazing, thorns, falling, slipping in mud, tripping over obstacles.	All	2	2	8	Leaders trained in outdoor paediatric first aid (L3), risk management and hazard perception. First Aid kits, walkie talkie available (linked to school office) signal checked.	Leader will take control of any accident /health situation. Support of qualified first aid staff. Emergency contact numbers kept on site (office).	FS LEADER  Support staff to have relevant first aid training.
Uneven ground /dead wood causing slips trips and falls	Potential bruising, potential broken bones, though ground relatively soft	All	3	3	9	Verbal briefing given prior to session start. Reinforce no running within areas of the setting/in certain weather e.g. icy conditions. Grounds maintenance completed by relevant agencies.	Reinforce ground rules. Brief other staff to support reinforcements. Lead to report any hazards to SBM/SM upon site inspection.	FS Leader SBM/ Site manger Support staff.
Lifting when collecting and moving materials	Injury from lifting, moving heavy wood, cuts and bruises from swinging branches.	All	2	3	6	Use safe lifting procedures and safe carrying procedure. Brief pupils/other staff on safe lifting / children to roll heavier logs.	Get children to remind each other of the safe lifting technique.	FS LEADER ensure safe lifting techniques being used. Support staff to reinforce.
Insects	Bites/stings Anaphylactic shock	All	2	5	10	Identify such insects. Make children aware, increase knowledge of biting/stinging insects.	Ensure any allergies are highlighted on consent form and all staff are aware. Epipens available.	FS Leader Other school staff Support staff to reinforce during sessions.

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Stinging plants	Discomfort Allergic reactions	All	2	3	6	Identify such plants. Make children aware of which plants sting/have thorns and how to avoid them Adults aware of allergies, knowledgeable about flora and fauna for site.	Attendees briefed about safe collection and usage. Explain risk of stinging nettles and how to administer first aid to sting. Brief all about any areas of brambles, ivy, holly prior to use.	FS leader Supporting staff
Pond	Drowning	All	2	4	8	Ensure briefing given to learners. No unsupervised access. Fencing around pond to slow down learners.	If pond dipping taking place – FSL /support staff to be in attendance (or class teacher if non FS teaching activity)	FS LEADER to brief individuals if going into pond area. Support staff to oversee use.
Litter and debris	Cut hands /scratches /gashes	All	3	2	6	Offensive/unnatural litter picked up during onsite grounds check.	Group told not to touch litter ( any unnatural object and advise leader or helper)	FS LEADER  Support staff to monitor during session.
Low Branches and trees	Banging, poking eyes, scratches, piercing skin.	All	3	3	9	Where practicable such areas are avoided.  Unsafe low branches removed if needed.	Children assess each session as part of safety brief and are advised to be careful, risk assess.	FS LEADER to assess site at each visit. Children assess as part session.
Animal Faeces	Infection and disease	All	2	3	6	Animals are able to access the grounds through and over fencing. Ground level checked during grounds check.	Verbal briefing to group prior to start of session to remind them that animals can access the area.	FS leader  Support staff – during session Children to be aware.
Fungus/ Toxic plants.	Poisoning.	All	3	3	6	Areas with high volumes of fungi will not be used.  Note: Autumn fungi present in areas.	Group to be shown certain fungi so they avoid touching them. Fungus to be identified on site.	FS LEADER to reiterate at each safety briefing

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							Hand washing prior to snacks. Group briefed to speak to leaders if unsure of plant/fungi.	Support staff to monitor access to areas.
Collapse of shelters	Pressure related injuries.	All	2	2	4	FS lead to support knot tying and lashings. If using natural shelter building techniques then timber is checked prior to session to ensure it is useable.	Leaders to teach group how to effectively knot and lash as instructed. Leaders to check that children are happy the knots are secure	FS LEADER at the time of construction.
Use of outdoor classroom	Trip, fall, trapped fingers in doorway.	All	2	3	6	FS lead to alert attendees to raised step into the classroom. Doors to be locked back when in use to avoid movement by wind. Avoid opening doors in high winds.	Door securing mechanisms to be checked regularly. Hazards reported to SBM/SM	FS LEADER  SBM/SM
Members of the public (through fencing)	Interference, contact, verbal discussions	All	2	2	4	Ensure adequate supervision throughout session. Area is on school ground and fenced therefore the risk is reduced. Ensure all children are accounted for on a regular basis.	Children aware of boundaries at beginning of each session. Public should not be contacting through fence. Staff to be vigilant	FS LEADER to follow school procedure if any public contact
Campfire	Burns from hot water or food, heat injuries from burning wood or hot stones.	All	3	5	15	Forest Schools fire safety procedures in place. Fire gloves used for close work. Marshmallow sticks to be at least 80 cm. long. Burns kit, fire blanket on site. Fire bucket by fire x 2. Respect position at fire.	Safety briefing at fire place. No more than 4 around the fire including 1 adult. (More may sit on seating away from fire at distance of 2m).	FS LEADER to ensure safety procedures are in place.

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**Risk / Benefit analysis**

**The following benefits have been identified for site usage:**

- Developed: Confidence, Self-esteem, self-exploration and self-expression
- Improved language and communication skills,
- Increased motivation, concentration, resilience and empathy for others.
- Freedom of time and space to explore, discover, investigate.
- Team work/team building exercises
- Community involvement, developed responsibility of own area
- Alternative to digital and electronic media.
- Increased knowledge of woodland/outdoor environments and nature including management, fauna and flora, foraging
- Increased knowledge of safety procedures and routines within the boundaries of the environment.
- Developed physical skills, gross and fine motor.
- Increased knowledge of fire, and safety procedures surrounding the use of fire.
- Risk assessment and risk management.
- Knowledge of water safety.
- Developed knowledge and understanding of pond life, natural environment, life cycles, nature.
- Opportunities for observation.
- Understanding seasonal changes, ripple effect – learning beyond FS setting.
- Stress relieving, calming impact, connection to nature.
- Appreciation/ value of the natural world and how to look after it. Conservation, sustainability. Impact of humans on the natural world.
- Health and wellbeing benefits – increased serotonin, reduction in depression and anxiety
- Positive impacts on behaviour.

This risk assessment has been prepared for Forest School outdoor learning. The responsibilities stated are outlined for Go Wild Forest School sessions. During instances where class teachers use the schools outdoor areas, the responsibilities lie with qualified teaching staff and all risk assessments should be read and adhered to. All staff should be aware of personnel on site with up to date First Aid Training. Activities specific to Forest School, should **not** be carried out by non-qualified Forest School staff.

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Prepared by –S. Hill – L3 Forest School Leader    Agreed by L. Blanchenot (Head Teacher)

Written: September 2022.

Review Date: updated 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

	<b>Probability</b>		<b>Severity</b>	<b>Rating = probability x Severity</b>	
1	Very unlikely	1	Attention needed/ TLC	1-2	Low risk – no further action required.
2	Unlikely	2	First Aid	3-5	Low priority - monitor risks, action as required
3	Possible	3	First Aid/ Send to doctor	6-9	Medium risk – attention required, examine practicality of change.
4	Likely	4	Call emergency services	10-15	A high priority for action.
5	Very likely	5	Multiple injuries/death	16-25	Requires immediate attention and action.