

St Faiths Forest School

Risk/ Benefit Analysis

Forest School Site

RISK

- Low (L) Something which may result in a minor injury such as scratches, bruises or minor discomfort.
- Medium (M) Something which could result in major injury (broken bone, severe cut or burn which results in being taken to hospital).
- High (H) Something which could result in multiple major injuries or death.

LIKELIHOOD

- Low (L) The suggested risk is unlikely to happen during the activity.
- Medium (M) The suggested risk could happen during the activity.
- High (H) The suggested risk is extremely likely or certain to occur during the activity.

Hazard	Benefit	Who can be harmed? How?	Risk Level	Likeli- hood	Control measures	Risk level after control measures	Likelihood level after control measures
Animal faeces		Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease • Illness 	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check site before each use, remove any faeces - Monitor throughout session - Wet wipes, hand wash and hand gel available at all times - Hands always washed before preparing/ eating food 	L	L
Mud play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensory play - Connection/ interaction with natural world - Immunity boosting 	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness (through ingestion) • Infection (dirt entering open wounds) 	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach children how to play safely in mud- not putting hands in mouths etc - Regular hand washing - Hands always washed before preparing/ eating food - Check for and cover any open wounds on exposed skin before mud play 	L	L
Uneven ground, Tree roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being in a woodland environment - Teaches children to manage their own safety - Physical development 	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slips, trips and falls 	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear moveable trip hazards - Make everyone aware of uneven ground/ tree roots - Encourage children to walk around the site, not run 	L	L
Tree branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being in a woodland environment - Teaches children to manage their own safety 	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scratches/ cuts from sharp branches • Willow branches at eye level – could be poked in eye • Injury from falling branches 	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trim willow branches when necessary - Make everyone aware of where branches are that may be a hazard - Tie bright string/ ribbon around any particularly dangerous branches to make them more visible (remove before leaving site) 	L	L

Harmful flora e.g. stinging nettles, thorn bushes	-Plant identification -Respecting nature -Managing own safety	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stings • Scratches/ cuts • Allergic reactions 	L	M	-Teach children to identify plants that may cause harm and notify an adult of their presence -Remove if necessary to prevent harm	L	L
Dig Pit	-Using tools (spades) -Mud play -Team work -Physical development -Managing own safety	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness (through ingestion) • Infection (dirt entering open wounds) • Bumps with spades • Injury to foot caused by spades • Cuts/ scratches caused by debris • Contact with animal faeces • Contact with fungi 	L	L	- Check site before each use, remove any faeces/ fungi - Monitor throughout session -Clear any rubbish/ sharp debris/ animal faeces prior to session -Demonstrate how to use spades safely -Teach children to tell an adult if they notice any faeces/ unsafe objects- no pick, no lick! -Maximum of 4 children in dig pit at once	L	L
Site When flooding has occurred	-Understand why flooding happens -Learning about wildlife that lives in/ around water	Everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning • Falls • Ingestion of dirty water 	H	L	-Cordon off areas of extreme flooding - Speak to children about areas that can not be used - move resources out of flooded areas - cancel session if necessary - Keep areas cordoned off if necessary to help ground recover	L	L

Updated: 14/07/25