

## Risk assessment for the forest schools at Henley Fort / High Ashurst / Thames Young Mariners

### Human Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
All hazards	All Participants and Staff	Appropriately trained staff who hold the Forest School Practitioners Award to facilitate ensuring supervision of participants. All participants to be briefed clearly on task and how to safely use any tools required to achieve the task. First Aid Kit and mobile phone available where working. Please read in conjunction with the General Use of Site Risk Assessment also.
Falling/slipping	All Participants and Staff	Safety brief before each task. Staff to check Forest School (FS) area prior to session and remove any tripping / slipping hazards present. Brief participants of potential dangers - uneven ground, rabbit holes etc.
Cuts to hands from using tools (Bow Saw, Frost Knife, Loppers, Bill Hook, Hand Axe)	All Participants	All participants to be briefed clearly on the tool being used and the recommended safe working area. Appropriately trained FS staff to facilitate task. PPE issued where appropriate.
Tree cutting - risk of falling branches from above	All Participants and Staff	Trained FS staff to brief groups on safe tree cutting techniques. Maximum size of trunk to be felled will be 7" circumference, at waist height, and high viz jackets and hard hats to be worn by tree fellers. Group to observe safety angles/margins as directed by FS Practitioner. Permission must be granted from Estates Manager or Operations Manager prior to any tree being felled.
Burns from fire lighting activities	All Participants and Staff	Trained FS staff to brief groups on safe fire lighting techniques and rules of fire circle. Observe safety margins within the fire circle. Provide fire proof gloves for handling cook pots on fire. Fire Bucket on site as well as a burns kit and first aid kit. Fire must be supervised at all times.

### Environment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Face eye and body injuries from vegetation	All Participants and Staff	Group briefed prior to activity, full body covering when moving through vegetation or use the paths only. Warn participants about branches & stems hazards. Ensure clients with asthma or any allergic reactions are known an appropriate medication is carried.
Poisoning	All Participants	Brief participants not to touch or eat anything they are uncertain about.
Log Piles inside Forest School Area	All Participants and Staff	Brief group about where to store wood for fire lighting activities and for non-fire lighting activities. DO NOT climb on log piles
Log Piles outside of Forest School Area	All Participants and Staff	Brief Group. No climbing on logs. Respect environment/habitat piles - DO NOT tamper with them.
Fire burning out of control	All Participants and Staff	Size of fire appropriate to activity. Fires in designated areas only.
Extreme Weather	All Participants and Staff	Ensure all participants are wearing appropriate clothing and protection from the weather. Check detailed weather forecast before commencing activity and adjust programme if necessary.
Collision with objects while blind folded.	All Participants	Ensure sighted participants within the group. Closely supervise the group.

### Equipment Hazards

Hazard type	Who may be harmed	Is the risk adequately controlled
Equipment failure	All Participants and Staff	Equipment maintained and checked prior to each usage by appropriately trained FS staff. Equipment to be checked following use and accounted for. Any fault or lost item reported immediately to Senior Outdoor Education Worker.
Using sticks to heat and eat Marshmallows. Impalement from stick to face or inner mouth	All Participants	Safety brief from staff - individuals must not eat Marshmallow straight from the stick. This will stop the stick causing harm by accidentally being nudged. By using the fingers, it will help in testing the temperature before eating.