

4.3.3 RISK ASSESSMENT

Description of the site:

Area is owned by Newton Burgoland Parish Council at the edge of the park (Wraggy) The park is next to Newton Burgoland school grounds separated by a locked gate. The site is used by the school. Large fauna can access the area also smaller fauna such as cats, hedgehogs, foxes and rabbits can enter. There is also a badger set in the outskirts of the woodland. The site is a small broadleaved woodland with a mixture of trees and flora including ferns, bramble and nettles. There is no access for vehicles into the woodland area. The area has one boggy water section and a small pond area that has a textured walk way and a fence down one side. The public have a right of way through the forest. Litter occasionally comes into the area from general public. There is a fire pit area within the woodland area with wooden benches.

Adjacent to the wooded area there is a large field including football pitch and play equipment. The whole area is surrounded by hedgerow- mainly hawthorn. The children have planted 5 trees within the grassed area.

At times, there are issues with dog fouling.

	Hazard	Harm	Likelihood following measures/ seriousness	People at risk	Benefits Of exposure To risk	Existing measures / new measures	Who will do it ? When?
1	Nettles and brambles	stinging	High/ low	all	Increased knowledge, manage feelings, provide support to peers, Natural healing knowledge- dock leaf	Make children aware, clear pathways and main play areas. Children to wear long trousers.	Growth will be monitored and checked at the start of each half term in growing season. FSL will look at this with children to discuss any additional measures to be taken. FSL will carry secateurs.

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	Hazard	Harm	Likelihood following measures/ seriousness	People at risk	Benefits Of exposure To risk	Existing measures / new measures	Who will do it ? When?
2	Berried flora	poisoning	Low/ high	children	Awareness that not all plants are safe to eat- children will be safer when out alone	Inform all children not to pick or eat berries. Wash hands before eating and other food stuff.	Group will walk forest and look for changes- new plant growth. Rules to be reinforced weekly.
3	Tree roots and stumps, animal holes and badger set	Tripping, falling	low/ medium	all	Children will learn to take care on uneven surfaces and will manage the risks of moving at speed. Agility confidence	Inform all to take care in woods, clear walkways of bramble and roots. Make sure all children know where holes are. Make sure all children are made aware that the badger set and surrounding area is out of bounds.	ALL- on visit
4	Tree branches	Concussion, Grazes, bruises	Low/ high medium/ low	all	Children will learn to take care when moving around woods. Children will learn not to enter wooded areas during/ after storms without due care and attention.	Pre-visit & continuous risk check, remove hanging dead wood. Remind children of risks.	FSL /FSA -prior to & on visit. FSL aware of weather conditions prior to visit which could lead to falling wood.

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5	Sticks	Hitting Eye injury	Low/low Low/high	children	Children will learn to consider others and to take care. Enjoyment, creativity, construction skills, resilience	Inform children of rules, use a stick no longer than your arm, no hitting. Carry longer sticks by dragging.	FSL

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6	Soil, animal feces and water (eg puddles)	Contamination Tetanus, <i>Leptospirosis</i> (Weils disease) and <i>Toxocariasis</i> (roundworm) and other infections.	Low/ high	all	Children will learn life skill/ knowledge to keep safe	<p>Pre-visit & continuous risk check, remove and discard safely.</p> <p>Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly after working in the garden and before handling food and drink.</p> <p>Cover any cuts or abrasions before sessions.</p> <p>Remove out of reach of animal feces before the children enter the woodland- but ensure children are aware of risks and know what to do if they find any that has been missed.</p>	FSL/ FSA

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7	Debris / rubbish	Cuts and infections (tetanus)	Low/low	all	Children will learn life skill/ knowledge to keep safe Children will avoid littering	Pre-visit & continuous risk check, ask children not to pick up rubbish, inform an adult if they find something, adult to remove safely. Gloves to be worn when clearing a disused area of the forest.	FSL
8	Perimeter fence & gates	escape of children from school to field	Low/low	children	NA	Ensure all gates are closed and main gates are locked. Update risk assessment for new intake.	FSL/ FSA
9	Fire	Out of control Fire	Low/high	all	Children will learn life skill/ knowledge to keep safe by discussion Enjoyment Awe and wonder	See separate fire pit safety risk assessment.	FSL
10	Mushrooms and fungi	poisoning	Low/ high	all	Children will learn life skill/ knowledge to keep safe by discussion	Inform all children and adults to look only, no touching.	all - on visit

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1 1	Bees, wasps, adders.	stings and bites	Low/ low	all	Children learn to manage feelings about other living creatures. Less likely to panic. Learn to respect living creatures.	Check area for nests, avoid contact, first aider always on site, seek medical aid (999) if anaphylactic shock or adder bite are present. Class RA maintained for individual pupils.	all - on visit
1 2	Tools	Cuts, grazes, amputation.	Low/ low Low/ high	all	Children learn to respect tools and rules. Life skills. Enjoyment Motivation Creativity confidence	Tools stored away from premises, used on a one to one basis, <i>*separate risk assessment for each tool available. incl. strict supervision, correct use of tools.</i>	All - on visit
1 3	Boundaries	escapees	Low/ medium	children	Children learn to respect rules and understand risks. Life skill.	Children informed of boundaries, staff supervise the boundary and supervise 'at risk' children at all times. Risk assess new intake	All - on visit
1 4	Ropes and swings	falls	Low/ medium	children	Children respect self and take care of self. enjoyment	Check quality of ropes & knots. First aider on site at all times.	All - on visit

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1 5	Trees/ climbing	falls	Low/ medium	children	Fitness, enjoyment, Resilience, confidence,	First aider on site at all times, support children to manage their own risks.	All - on visit
1 6	Boggy area and pond	Drowning	Low/ high	Children	Life skill, knowledge about keeping safe Respect nature	Children to be told about the risks when near these areas. Children informed that these areas are out of bounds without an adult present. Adults to supervise boundaries.	All – on visit

Emergency Arrangements

Serious Accident: Seek additional adult help, provide first aid, call ambulance 999, inform parents (next of kin). Return all other children into the classroom, keep them calm, read stories, sing songs etc. Write up accident report form, inform HSE, assess risk assessment and make new adjustments for future.

FSL carries mobile phone and class information in FS folder.

Minor Accident: Provide first aid, complete accident report form, inform parents (carer), assess risk assessment and make adjustments for future.

Weather change: Make dynamic risk assessment, seek shelter or return to classroom.

Safety Advice
<p>Clothing: long trousers and long sleeves, warm clothing in cold weather, waterproof clothing in wet weather. Safety gauntlets at fire, work wear gloves for using tools and collecting rubbish. Spare clothing available in the classroom for emergencies.</p> <p>Communications: Mobile phone, member of staff to use land line to office.</p> <p>First Aid: woodland first aid kit to be taken for each visit.</p> <p>Food and Drink: wash hands before eating, sit for eating and drinking, take snack and drink for full sessions, take cups, wet wipes and kitchen roll.</p> <p>Children's safety advice: remind children of rules being outside.</p> <p>Staff safety advice: Staff to discuss any worries before entering the site before each session and decide if it is safe to enter as a team. Consider weather, environment, state of site etc.</p>
Further Comments
<p>Risk Benefit refers to the benefit of pupils learning about the risk rather than them experiencing injury.</p>

*Review site assessment form and update annually or before should incidents or changes occur.

Name/Signature	Role	Date
Stacey Waddell, Sue Ward, Nicola Hall	Forest School Leaders	
Sue Ward	Head Teacher	
Linda Foster	Business Manager	
<p>Assessment date: 2014/15 Risk Assessment undertaken by: Sue Ward, Nicola Hall.</p>		