



Aston on Trent Forest Schools Risk Assessment 2023-24



Location:	Aston on Trent Primary School grounds	Name:	Mr T Bamford	Date:	06.09.2023
Description of site / activity / tools: Site within schools' grounds. Fenced off pond / wooded area towards the front of school entrance. Access via concrete path. Lockable gate for access. Concrete paving on entrance. Shallow pond area with nature pond and fish pond. Natural path leads around pond to small, wooded area.					
	Significant hazard / risk	Level of risk	Control / actions	Who?	Risk benefits
1.	The site Uneven ground, branches and trees, roots on ground. Branches and shrubs at eye level. Pond.	Medium	Children well supervised, awareness talks and reminders. There will always be at least 2 members of staff present and trained in First Aid with a First Aid kit available plus mobile phone.	Mr Bamford	Promoting physical development and awareness of the difference in surroundings. Encouraging children to be self-aware and encourage peers.
2.	Missing child A child may wander off or go missing during a Forest School session.	Low	Children told and asked to repeat Forest School boundaries and rules. Regular head count. No access out of school grounds. Potential to lock gate of the Forest School area.	Mr Bamford	Children realise the importance of following rules and working as a group. Building relationships and trust.
3.	Bites and stings from bees / wasps and stinging nettles.	Low	Warn not to catch bees / wasps or touch stinging nettles. Long trousers to be worn and no open toe shoes. Nettles to be cleared if necessary.	Mr Bamford	Opportunity to study and appreciate insects. Develop a respect rather than a fear.
4.	Allergies / children's existing conditions.	Low	All staff to be aware of known allergies / conditions and be aware of treatment required.	Mr Bamford	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding allergens.



5.	Mushroom and fungi	Low	Ensure children do not eat anything on site that they find and keep their hands out of their mouths. Hands to be washed after leaving the site and before any 'official' food preparation. Obvious mushrooms to be removed.	Mr Bamford	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding mushrooms and fungi. Identify similarities to foods bought and eaten.
6.	Poisonous plants	Low	Site to be inspected prior to sessions. Staff to be aware of poisonous plants. Children taught not to pick anything that's living and growing. Again, keep fingers out of mouths.	Mr Bamford	Promote knowledge and independence in identifying and avoiding poisonous plants.
7.	Building dens or other activities using sticks and branches – risk of sharp objects. Tying knots – rope and string.	Low	Children to be aware of dangers and carry / hold sticks carefully, being aware of others around them. Ground rules issued when using rope / string to tie knots. Injuries / accidents to be dealt with accordingly.	Mr Bamford	Opportunity to work as a team safely, problem solve and scaffold each other. Opportunities to develop motor skills, tie knots, and develop social skills.
8.	Animal droppings	Low	Children to be aware not to touch or pick up any animal droppings. Hands to be cleaned and anti bac gel used.	Mr Bamford	Help children identify animals from their droppings and other characteristics. Understand the importance of hygiene.
9.	Falling branches	Low	Area to be checked regularly – especially after wet / windy weather.	Mr Bamford	Children to learn to assess risk themselves.



10.	Sharp branches and thorns	Medium	Children to be aware of site and ground rules. Any cuts / injuries to be dealt with on site. Larger cuts / injuries to be dealt with in school. 999 to be called in the event of serious injuries.	Mr Bamford	Children to be self-aware, identify dangers and scaffold peers. Encourages self-confidence.
11.	Small tools – potato peelers, knives, saws	High	Safety talk given and repeated. Close supervision.	Mr Bamford	Building confidence and gaining new experiences.
12.	Large tools – sheaf knife, bow saw, loppers, billhook	High	Safety talk given and repeated prior to use. Children repeat safety talk. Use of tools on a strictly 1:1 basis only under very close supervision. Gloves to be used where necessary. Only trained Forest School Leader to use tools with children.	Mr Bamford	Supporting communication skills: listening, understanding new vocabulary. Hand and eye coordination. Risk taking and managing own behaviour.
13.	Fire lighting and campfire	High	Safety talk given prior to lighting each fire and reminder of rules for the fire circle. Children repeat safety talk. Fire circle laid out with clear boundaries. Children only go into fire circle when invited by Forest School Leader. Water is always available at the side of the fire and sticks etc. to be collected before fire is lit. Children to sit on logs / planks whilst fire is lit. Only trained Forest School Leader to light fires	Mr Bamford	Development of awareness and respect for fire. Working as a team and building trusting relationships and self-confidence. Children learn to be aware of danger and risk take as well as learning how to light fires and maintain fires safely. Gaining new experiences that empower them to use



			with children. School to be informed.		their initiative and enjoy the natural environment. Supports maths development – sizing and supporting structures.
14.	Cooking food	High	As fire lighting and campfire above. Any food cooked will be under close supervision with the adult cooking the food and ensuring it has cooled before the children eat it. Food hygiene – hands washed / anti bac gel used. Ensure food is stored carefully and disposed of safely.	Mr Bamford	See above. Children learn about cooking and being independent as well as learning life skills.
15.	Covid-19	Low	Tools quarantined between each week. Hand sanitiser available and used at regular intervals. Food/drink – hygiene standards to be maintained. Hand wash and sanitise before eating/drinking. No sharing of cutlery/cups etc.	Mr Bamford	Opportunity to work as a team safely, problem solve and scaffold each other. Opportunities to develop social skills. Children learn to manage own hygiene and risks.