



HERMITAGE WOODLAND GARDEN RISK ASSESSMENT 2019 (Reviewed January 2020, 2021 and 2022. Last reviewed 15:12:2022)

POTENTIAL HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	EXISTING MEASURES	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES	CHECKED	RESPONSIBILITY
POISONOUS PLANTS Yew tree Fungi Berries	Adults and children	The whole garden has been logged by county ecologist Dan Wrench with a list of all the visible plants. The Yew tree has been identified as a potential risk if any part of the tree is ingested. The yew trees' low branches have been removed. Any fallen branches are removed immediately.	<p>The garden has a 'No pick, no lick!' policy which children are reminded of at every session.</p> <p>We have 2 outside washing stations with running water and hand wash. Antibacterial hand sanitiser is readily available in the garden. Children are told to wash their hands if they have touched fungi, berries or yew branches also if they are particularly muddy. All children wash hands before eating any food and before campfire cooking. New groups of adults and children are informed about the potential hazards of fungi, berries and the Yew tree.. There are also washing facilities in the hall.</p>	The garden is checked before each session to ensure there are no fallen branches from the Yew tree. Areas with fungi and berries are identified before each session and children and adults are warned not to touch them.	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
FALLING BRANCHES	Adults and children	Never use the garden in windy or stormy weather. Pull down all dead or broken branches.	Check the trees before each session. Have the trees checked every two years by a local tree officer. Follow tree officers' recommendations e.g. re Ash Tree. The Ash tree was taken down in December 2019.	Before each session. Rigorous check after windy weather.	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
TREE SWING	Children	The swing is made with anti-rot rope which is exceptionally durable. Only children aged 2-11years allowed on the swing. One child at a time. It is erected on a strong branch and is strung close to the ground to eliminate any big falls.	Children are warned to keep a safe distance when someone is on the swing. Children are advised not to stand on the swing. Branch checked before every session for any signs of cracks/damage. An adult is positioned nearby when children use the swing.	Before each session. After the windy weather.	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
SLIDE	Children	One child at a time and feet first only.	Children frequently are reminded of how to use the slide. The slide is checked for potential damage like cracks and chips before each session.	Before each session.	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
NETTLE STINGS	Adults and children	Nettles are removed from main pathways.	children are warned about what they look like.	MONTHLY	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *



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LOW BRANCHES	Adults and children	All branches and holly at eye level are regularly cut.	children are warned about the hazards.	MONTHLY	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
TRIP HAZARDS	Adults and children	There are lots of tree roots and ivy so children are warned and shown where these are.	Clear ground Ivy monthly and keep an eye on roots growing through pathways.	MONTHLY	Staff to report to FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
TOOL USE	Adults and children	Tools are kept in a tool cupboard and counted out and back in. Only the FS lead to use the tools with the children. Tools to be returned to the locked cupboard after use.	Tools are always used with adult supervision. Either 1:1 or groups no more than 1:3. Safety gloves and goggles used where appropriate. Hacksaws, hammers, screwdrivers, rotary drills, mallets, chisel and vegetable peelers are the only tools used.	Before each tool session.	FOREST SCHOOL LEAD
CAMPFIRES	Adults and children	Forest School lead lights the fire and puts the fire out. Children are taught how to sit around a fire safely.	Two buckets of water filled ready for extinguishing the fire. Children sit at a safe distance from the fire with a minimum ratio of 1:5. Maximum 15 4-8-year olds. Children use extra long sticks to toast marshmallows.		FOREST SCHOOL LEAD
ANIMAL EXCREMENT	Adults and children	Any excrement found is removed, bagged and thrown in the bin. Hands then to be washed thoroughly.	Discourage cats and dogs away from the area. Do not allow any domestic pets into the garden.	Before each session.	FS LEAD*
INTRUDERS/TRESPASSERS	Children & adults	Ask the intruders to leave, call all the children and adults together until intruders have left the premises/areas.	Make clear that the garden and woodland is private property. If the intruders cause a threat to the property or person, move all the children into the Hermitage Centre, lock the doors and call the police.	Before each session.	FOREST SCHOOL LEAD *
INJURY WITH STICKS	Children & adults	Children are taught how to carry sticks.	Sticks longer than a child's forearm should be dragged behind them, the sharpest end on the ground.	Where needed	All staff