


## GENERAL SCHOOLS RISK ASSESSMENT



### PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

**Area/task/activity:** Forest School

**Location of activity:** School field

<b>Team/School name: Address &amp; Contact details:</b>	St John's Stonefold CofE Primary School	<b>Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment:</b>	Mr Paul Burns (Headteacher)
		<b>Signature(s):</b>	
<b>Line Manager/ Headteacher (Name/Title):</b>	Mr Paul Burns	<b>Date of Assessment:</b>	04.06.2025
<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Planned Review Date:</b>	September 2025
<b>How communicated to staff:</b>	Staff briefing	<b>Date communicated to staff:</b>	04.06.2025

### PART B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES:

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed	Type of harm	Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified)
Boundaries – fencing damaged	Staff & children	Children escaping, intruders.	Boundary fencing to be checked by the supervising adult prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Report any damage to fences to site manager for repair upon return from site check. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground layer – uneven ground, hidden roots on the ground, broken glass.</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Slips/trips, falls, cuts, grazes.	Site area to be checked for uneven ground, hidden roots, broken glass by the supervising adult prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Participants to wear appropriate footwear. Children to be well supervised and made aware of the potential hazards. Adults to give reminders to the children throughout the session. First Aid Kit/bag to be carried and available on site at all times. At least one first Aider to attend each forest school session. Report any maintenance issues

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			to site manager for repair upon return from site check. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deadwood in overhead trees, falling branches, uprooting.</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Head injuries, cuts, grazes.	Supervising adult to complete a site check for deadwood, falling branches etc. before use of the area on the morning of the session and all adults in attendance to conduct continuous monitoring during sessions. Adults to remove any hanging deadwood. Report to site manager if you are unable to remove this safely. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nettles, brambles, shrubs and broken branches at eye level</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Stings, allergic reactions, rashes and grazes	Site area to be checked by the supervising adult for nettles, brambles, shrubs and broken branches prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Educate participants on common allergens. Children/adults to wear trousers and long-sleeved tops. First Aid Kit/bag and any necessary medication to be carried and available on site at all times. At least one first Aider to attend each forest school session. Report any maintenance issues to site manager for maintenance upon return from site check. Regular maintenance to be conducted by site manager. Pathways are to be cleared, low level branches to be cut back/removed and shrubs/nettles/brambles cut back. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poisonous plants, mushrooms and fungi.</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Poisoning, stings, allergic reactions, rashes, anaphylaxis	Site area to be checked by the supervising adult for poisonous plants, mushrooms and fungi prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Children to be made aware of hazards ensuring they do not consume anything they find, keeping hands away from their mouths and hands thoroughly washed after session. Hand sanitiser to be made available on site. First aid kit and any necessary medication to be carried and available. Report any obvious mushrooms/poisonous plants to site manager for removal upon return from site check. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris/litter</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Contamination, trips, falls.	Site area to be checked for litter and debris by the supervising adult prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area. Supervising adult to remove any litter. Children to be told not to touch/ pick up any litter/glass etc. and if they find anything to report to an adult to be removed safely. Any sharps e.g., needles to be reported to site manager upon return from site check.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animals on site, dens, animal faeces</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Slips, trips, falls, cuts and grazes. Contamination/ poisoning	Site area to be checked for animals, dens and animal faeces by the supervising adult prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area. Children to be made aware not to touch or pick up any animal faeces. Participants to be educated on potential wildlife they may encounter/how to respond/the importance of not disturbing or feeding. Have

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List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed	Type of harm	Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified)
			a clear communication plan in event of unexpected encounters. Hand sanitiser to available on site at all times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bees, wasps and other insects</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Bites and stings	Site area to be checked for nests by the supervising adult prior to using the site on the morning of their forest school session. Daily checklist to be completed and signed prior to use of the area. First Aid kit available on site at all times. At least one first Aider to attend each forest school session. Children with allergies – see allergies (below) Report any nests etc. to site manager for removal/checking upon return from site check. Follow school beehive risk assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allergies / medical conditions</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Rashes, anaphylaxis, asthma attack etc.	All staff in attendance to be aware of staff and children with allergies or ongoing medical conditions. All supervising adults must be aware of and carry a copy of the care plan/treatment required in the medical bag. Items such as epi pens, inhalers and any other treatment to be on site during session. First Aid kit available on site at all times. At least one first Aider to attend each forest school session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Den building and other activities – using sticks/branches</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Trips, falls, grazes, cuts, splinters.	Children to be made aware of dangers and how to carry/transport sticks and branches around the site. This should be reinforced each time they enter the forest area as a reminder. Adults to closely supervise and reminded the children of safety when doing an activity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals – SEN / disabilities / behavioural needs</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Increased likelihood of other risks to children and adults	Adults in attendance to be made aware of any SEND, conditions, disabilities and behavioural difficulties prior to the session. Class teacher to consider separate risk assessment where needed. 1:1 support (if applicable) to be used supervised the child(ren) at all times. Speak with SENDCO/Phase lead to discuss this prior to the session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other use – grounds maintenance. Adults and children in the vicinity of the person operating the equipment.</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Children and adults Physical injury	Timetable and communication between adults to time slot when landscaping, grass cutting and equipment is to be used in the forest area. No persons (adults or children) will be in the vicinity when carrying out the task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather Conditions</li> </ul>	Staff & children	Children and adults Injury /illness	Monitor weather forecasts before and during the session and be prepared to amend plans. Ensure appropriate clothing is worn. Ensure participants stay hydrated in extreme heat. Establish a designated shelter area during adverse weather

\*Note – food hygiene and safety training is not a legal requirement but is recommended as part of a school’s due diligence process.

This general risk assessment will apply to this area/task/activity in most schools providing the control measures described are in operation and there are no further local significant hazards. If it does not fully apply and further control measures are required, please complete the Action Plan at Part C. If it fully applies please sign below.

I certify that the risk assessment above fully applies to the area/task/activity under assessment in St John's Stonefold CofE Primary School

Signed: P. Burns

Name: Paul Burns

Risk Assessor: Paul Burns

<b>PART C: ACTION PLAN Further action / controls required</b>						
<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Person(s) to undertake action?</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Projected time scale</b>	<b>Notes / comments</b>	<b>Date completed</b>