



FOREST SCHOOLS – MATLOCK BATH HOLY TRINITY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WOODLANDS/SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

ASSESSOR: Chris Layhe-Humphreys

DATE: 09/23

REVIEW DATE: 09/24

Description of Site:

Matlock Bath Holy Trinity CofE Primary School owned by Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 3AG. (01629) 582862

Debris: Some litter is present around the site, but there are numerous bins provided for the children to use and the caretaker picks up any debris on a regular basis. Children are educated on the importance of litter and recycling. Some litter is caused by the weather blowing it on site too.

Dogs & Cats: Although the school operates a strict policy of no dogs on site. Since the site is surrounded by residential housing, we do get quite a few cats straying onto the site. Children are well educated to let an adult know if they see any animal faeces. Before the start of the session, this is something that will be checked.

Flora & Fauna: There is some variety of trees, shrubs and ground flora (some bramble) that has created different habitats for different birds, insects and very occasionally small mammals. We do lots of leaf litter in the Autumn.

Vehicles: Only authorised vehicles will be able to access the site. Leader to check with the office staff before the start of each session any known vehicles (and timings) entering the site so that the learning can take place away from any potential moving vehicles.

Telephone Access: The sessions will be completed on site and the local woods and there will be access to the school's telephone lines. CLH/VP will additionally carry a mobile phone to reach inside the building quicker to get assistance should an emergency situation present itself.

	HAZARD	PERSONS AT RISK	EXISTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES	PROBABILITY (P) 1-5	SEVERITY (S) 1-5	RATING (P) X (S) 1-25	WHAT MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN	BY WHO
1	On Site Vehicles	Groups & the General Public	Locked gates around the site to prevent vehicle access.	1	4	4	Ensure the group know what to do should they see an approaching vehicle. Ensure group are aware to stay close to adults during the session when the pathway gates open at 3:25pm. Adults to be extra vigilant when the path gates are opened to parents at 3:25pm. At this point in the session we will be together in a group reflection and review task making it easier to monitor and safeguard.	CLH/VP and other adults

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2	Litter & Debris Cut Trip Entrapment Suffocation	Groups & the General Public	Bins located all around the site. CLH/VP complete pre session safety check.	3 2 2 1	3 2 2 5	9 4 4 5	CLH/VP to cordon off any areas with severe or hazardous debris using the hazard tape. Ensure group are aware of the dangers of contact with hazardous debris.	CLH/VP
3	Paths & Tracks Broken (trip) Uneven (trip) Slippery (slip)	Groups & the General Public	The caretaker ensures that all paths are maintained to a satisfactory standard. CLH/VP will complete a pre session safety check and cordon off any potentially hazardous areas using the hazard tape.	2 2 2	2 2 3	4 4 6	Ensure group are aware of the Forest School Safety talk and that they follow the walk everywhere rule. CLH/VP and other leaders will be strict in enforcing this particular rule. CLH/VP to continue to monitor on site changes to tracks and paths.	CLH/VP and Staff
4	Exposed Roots & Other Hazards off Main Paths Trip Slip	Groups & the General Public	Main hazards: Dead wood debris, rootstock and brambles.	3 3	2 2	6 6	Leader must inform group of potential dangers from uneven ground or other hazards before starting the tasks.	CLH/VP
5	Steps & Steep Paths Trip Slip Fall	Groups & the General Public	Group are very familiar will most areas of the site and know about the different sets of steps and slopes. No evidence of broken steps presently.	1 1 1	2 2 2	2 2 2	CLH/VP will complete a pre session check of the grounds and note any potential hazards to be discussed with the group at the start of the session. Explain the Forest School Safety Rules with the children and enforce they stick to them.	CLH/VP
6	Holes & Animal Burrows, ditches Falling Getting Trapped	Groups & the General Public	No apparent current level of danger requiring marking or filing.	1 1	3 3	3 3	If group or leaders find any cavity dangers they are to move away and inform the FS leader as soon as possible. This area will be cordoned off using the hazard tape and all of the group are to keep away until it can be sorted.	CLH/VP
7	Broken Walls, Fences & Boundaries Cut Crushing Trapping Entrapment	Groups & the General Public	All boundaries are in good condition. The fencing separating the field from the Church grounds is not in the best condition but is checked regularly.	1 1 1 1	2 4 2 2	2 4 2 2	Ensure group are aware to take extra caution when working near the fence as they could get cut or caught on a damaged part. Tell the children not to pass close to them.	CLH/VP
8	Low Branches on Paths Banging head Poking in eyes	Groups & the General Public	Numerous trees on site.	1 1	4 4	4 4	When working and moving around most of the site the group will be safe from this hazard. Make them aware of the dangers of branches to themselves and others and teach them how to move and work safely during the sessions.	CLH/VP

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9	Low Branches on Site Banging head Poking in eyes	Groups & the General Public	Warn group about branches on trees and explain why they are hard to see, especially those at eye height.	1 3	4 4	4 12	FS leader to ensure the group are aware of the dangers of branches. Ensure the group follow the Forest School Safety Rules by moving around the site with care and attention and if brushing branches to the side to pass, to ensure people in front and behind are aware and safe.	CLH/VP
10	Dead Trees & Branches Impact Crush Tripping	Groups & the General Public	There are no dead trees on site and very few branches on the ground.	1 1 2	4 5 2	4 5 4	During pre-session check CLH/VP clear any hazard of this nature. Be aware of “Ash Die Back” in local woodland when using.	CLH/VP
11	Dogs & Cats Attack Faeces	Groups & the General Public	Very limited likelihood that dogs will come on site. When side pathway gates are opened, the group will be in an area away from public and will be completing a review/reflect task together. CLH/VP to look for faeces during the pre-session check.	1 2	4 2	4 4	Ensure all group are aware of the hazard of faeces and other unknown animals. Ensure the group inform CLH/VP immediately if they see anything. CLH/VP to deal with any dogs that may approach the group.	CLH/VP
12	Members of the Public Interference Abduction Attack	Groups & the General Public	Ensure there is a correct ratio of adults to leaners. All gates are secured and locked during most of the session. When gates are opened, the group will come together to complete a group task (review and reflect). Adults present to help ensure their safety and privacy.	1 1 1	4 5 5	4 5 5	FS leader must ensure all procedures are being followed at all times. Ensure all adults present in the session help to move the children back to their classroom at the end of the session.	CLH/VP and Staff

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