

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FOREST SCHOOL TASTER DAY

Hazard/Risk	Who could be affected by hazard.	Likelihood of being affected	Worst consequence of being affected	Risk Level	How hazard/risk is mitigated	Residual risk level
Slip, trip and fall or other injury while moving around woodland.	FST VSA VC	1	40	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group will carry out a risk assessment of the site and identify trip hazards and hazards at eye height. They will also identify nettles and bramble patches to avoid. They will be instructed not to run in the woodland and to stay within an agreed boundary. FST and VSA will monitor.</li> </ul>	LOW
Ingesting poisonous plant or pathogens	VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VC will be informed that some native plants are poisonous. They will be instructed not to put anything in their mouths, including fingers.</li> <li>VC will be instructed to wash hands after morning and afternoon session and before eating popcorn. FST and VSA to ensure this is done.</li> </ul>	LOW
Burn or scald from fire.	FST VSA VC GCS	2	40	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire will be small and contained within fire pit, or metal container.</li> <li>Fire to be positioned away from other flammable materials and overhanging trees and branches. Any trip hazards will be removed.</li> <li>There will be an exclusion zone around the fire of at least 3m metres in every direction. This to be increased in windy conditions.</li> <li>A bucket of water will be set nearby to extinguish fire and as water treatment for burns, if needed.</li> <li>Children will be instructed in fire safety and will not be allowed within the fire circle without permission. There will be no more than 4 VC in the circle at any time and the FST will ensure that the fire area is closely monitored at all times by FST or VSA.</li> <li>FST will ensure that all care is used in lighting and adding wood to fire.</li> <li>The charcoal tin/popcorn pan will be placed in the fire and removed by the FST using fire gloves and VSA will not be</li> </ul>	Low

					<p>allowed to touch it until it is cool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first aid bag and burns first aid kit will be nearby.</li> <li>• The fire will be carefully extinguished after use.</li> </ul>	
Respiratory difficulties due to excessive smoke from fire.	FST VSA VC	1	75	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSA to ensure any VC with severe asthma and/or respiratory difficulties are kept out of smoke and at a safe distance. Only dry wood/sticks will be used as fuel to minimise smoke.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury caused by tools (loppers, secateurs, potato peelers) when cutting willow and stripping bark for charcoal making.	VSA VC	2	20	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FST, who is a qualified Forest School Leader, will train VC in safe tool use and ensure they understand the dangers. The use of loppers and secateurs will be monitored by the FST on a one to one basis. FST or VSA will monitor the use of potato peelers to strip bark.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury caused by slipping off rope bridge	VC	1	20	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VC will cross the rope bridge while holding onto a higher rope. They will take turns and will be instructed not to rush.</li> </ul>	Low
Injury caused by use of scissors or bradawl in jewellery making	VC	1	20	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FST, will instruct VC in safe use of scissors and bradawl and FST and VSA will monitor.</li> </ul>	Low

Date Reviewed: January 2026  
Next Review Date: January 2027