



### Risk/Benefit Assessment for an Open Fire

The benefits from engaging in Forest School activities are numerous and compelling; for the children, for the staff working with the children and for the school as a whole. The intent of Forest School provision is to offer the children an acceptable risk activity to enhance their learning opportunities and begin to develop their own risk management strategies. If we only provide a sanitised environment and risk adverse activities, children will not explore and discover the world for themselves, they will only experience a safety conscious environment.

<b>Name of Activity:</b> Campfire <b>Location:</b> Forest School designated space on the school site in Early Years outdoor area.			<b>Assessment conducted by:</b> S.Gaied <b>Position:</b> L3 Forest School Leader (trainee)		<b>Date of assessment:</b> 17 January 2021	
<b>The Benefit</b>	Development of awareness of and respect for fire. Building trusting relationships, team work and self-confidence. Learning to be aware of danger and risk-take as well as how to behave/move safely around a fire. Gaining new experiences that empower them to show respect for, enjoy and look after the natural environment. Supports early years outcomes in Communication & Language, PSED, Mathematical Development, Understanding the World, Creative Development Enhances characteristics of effective learning: resilience, perseverance, cooperation, problem-solving, independence, self-control, concentration etc Provides an opportunity to learn new skills outdoors; feeling the freedom, wonder and awe that only nature can provide.			<b>Who will benefit?</b>	Pupils Staff Wider school community Families	
<b>The Hazard</b>	<b>What might happen?</b>	<b>Potential Level of Risk</b>	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Level of Risk after controls</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	
Fire & Heat	Burning to skin & clothes	High	*Constant supervision of the fire to ensure it does not get too big/ children do not have unsupervised access *One person to act as fire marshall, standing beside fire at all times while alight or hot embers remain *Children will be given rules and safety advice and dangers of fire prior to visiting the fire. They will be made aware of the potential dangers of being in close proximity to fire. *Children to use the ‘respect’ position (one foot/one knee on the ground) whilst in the fire pit circle. *Children to hold the cooking tools at arm’s length.	Low/Medium	Site Manager School Staff FS Leader	



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Children will be told not to blow or shake heated food if it burns. The designated supervising staff member will extinguish any flames that take hold of the food.</li> <li>*A bucket of water will be adjacent to the fire.</li> <li>*First aider on site and first aid/burn box will be readily available.</li> <li>* Fire proof gloves &amp; fire blanket within easy reach.</li> <li>* Fire lighting equipment will be safely stored in a locked fire-proof box, out of reach from children</li> </ul>		
Fire out of control	As above and: damage to Forest School site/school buildings	Medium	As above, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Fire will be in a purpose-built firepit, placed on concrete level surface.</li> <li>*Fire area will be away from buildings, in a designated space, fenced off from all other play spaces.</li> <li>*The fire will not be under overhanging trees which may catch alight.</li> <li>*Dry wood or kindling will be used to ignite the fire, no accelerants will be used.</li> <li>* The fire will be extinguished if the wind strengthens or erratically changes direction.</li> <li>*A good supply of water will be available to put out flames and dampen heat.</li> <li>*A fire blanket will be available to wrap around person who may be alight.</li> <li>* The fire will be extinguished properly before leaving (dug over &amp; ground temperature sufficiently lowered)</li> </ul>	Low	Site manager to continually check site.  All staff responsible for fire control.
Falls into fire	Burning to skin & clothes	High	As above, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Fire circle laid out with clear boundaries using purpose built seating.</li> <li>* Clear entrance/exit space to access fire circle.</li> <li>* Fire pit to be located in the centre of the fire circle, at a safe distance away from the seating (2m radius = optimal distance), constantly supervised by the fire marshall (site manager)</li> </ul>	Low	All staff responsible for maintaining order & reinforcing fire safety rules



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Children have a safety brief before entering the fire-circle containing the fire pit. They will be reminded of the safety rules and asked to repeat them:</li> <li>* No walking between the fire circle seats and fire. Children have been trained in walking 'round the outside' to access their place via the entrance/exit in the fire circle and recite this chant whenever they move around the area, even when no fire is lit.</li> <li>* Children will sit on purpose built benches whenever the fire is lit</li> <li>* Children will be invited to kneel at the fire on a 1:1 basis with the supervising staff member and hold the burgundy cooking tools at arm's length</li> <li>* When cooking etc. everyone at the fire should be on one knee (the 'respect position') to remain stable. Maximum of 2 people at fire (1 adult:1 child)</li> </ul>		
Hot food/hot drinks	Burns/scalds/allergic reactions	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All hot drinks given to children will be cooled sufficiently with some cold water to prevent burns. No boiling hot drinks for children.</li> <li>* Children will be told not to blow or shake heated food if it burns. The designated supervising staff member will extinguish any flames that take hold of the food.</li> <li>* Children are trained to give "10 big blows" before consuming hot food</li> <li>* Children with food allergies will be considered prior to the session and provided with safe food/drinks to cook/consume.</li> <li>* First Aid kits/burn kits/water/specific medication (inc epipens) will all be readily available and on site.</li> <li>* Any unused/unwanted cooked food/drinks will be safely disposed of by a member of staff</li> </ul>	Low	School Staff FS Leader
Providing the safety procedures listed above are put into place to manage the potential risk of an open fire, the risk level is <b>LOW</b> for all activities, with the benefits outweighing the risks by far.					
Signed:				Date:	
Level 3 Trainee Forest School Leader				17 January 2021	