

Forest School Risk Assessment

Location: Mabel's Wood Forest School Site


Date: February 2025 (Updated April 2026)

Children: up to 30

Adults: 3

Hazard	What could go wrong? (outcome/injury)	Who may be harmed? (persons at risk)	What is done to help control the risk	Is the risk still H M or L	What extra controls need to be put in place	By when	By whom
Falling tree branches	Branch could hit child causing cuts, grazes, bruises, bumps and scratches, Broken bones, Concussion.	Pupils / Adults	Carryout dynamic risk assessment at beginning of each FS session look at trees and branches to assess stability. Always check weather report before FS session, focus on wind speed. Wind speed gusts 34mph or above deemed not safe for FS	M	Yearly Tree survey carried out by tree surgeon on behalf of the woodland owner.	Each session	T
DOG POO	Toxocariasis Conjunctivitis	Pupils	Check for dog poo during daily dynamic risk assessment Keep Dog poo bags in First Aid bag	M	Keep baby wipes and antibacterial gel in First Aid bag Keep plastic gloves in First Aid bag		TA
High Wind causing possible danger from fallen branches/twigs.	Branch could hit child causing cuts, grazes, bruises, bumps and scratches, Broken bones, Concussion.	Pupils / Adults	Always check weather report before FS session, focus on wind speed. Wind speed gusts 34mph or above deemed not safe for FS	M		Each session	T

Being hit by a car while walking to Mabel's Wood site	Could be hit by a car while walking on road to Mabel's Wood	pupils	Pupils reminded of rules of walking out of school, most importantly not to run, to stop walking and talking on whistle and keep close to edge of road walking with partner.	M	Teacher to walk at front and TA at back of line. Keep children of risk, with adults. Wear hi vis vests	Each session	T and TA
Falling over or bumping into each other while running around site	Cuts, grazes, bruises, bumps and scratches.	Pupils	Ch are reminded to use their spatial awareness when running. First Aid kit always on-site during FS sessions and kept in central location that everyone knows ' BASE '	M	Set up a Base that everyone knows the location of. Keep First aid kit here and children should know that if whistle sounds they should return to 'Base'.	Each session	T and TA
Climbing trees and Roundel walls falling out etc	Cuts, grazes, bruises, bumps and scratches. Broken bones concussion	Pupil	Ch are reminded to use their spatial awareness when climbing and to assess the risk to themselves. Only climb trees if told they are allowed by teacher. First Aid kit always on-site during FS sessions and kept in central location that everyone knows as the ' BASE '. Roundel walls – are not safe to climb, are very heavy and could collapse if climbed causing injury to climber and people nearby.	H	TA to stand close to climbing tree. Children must be reminded not to climb roundels as they could collapse and injure them.	Each session	T and TA
Stepping logs + Log seats	Slips, trips, cuts, grazes, bruises, bumps and scratches, sprains	Pupil	Adult must accompany children on Stepping Logs. Some could topple over if stepped on too close to the edge, causing injury to the child.	L			T and TA

			Children should be careful on the log seats and reminded that they could topple over if not sat on sensibly				
Manhole cover table	Bumps and Bruises	Pupil	Children made aware of pointed corners that if bumped into could hurt. Also, no climbing allowed onto table as it is not secured and is very heavy.	L		First session	T
Ingestion of or touching poisonous plant Eg ' Lords and Ladies AKA Cuckoo Pint ' 	Illness or death	Pupil	Pupils are taught and reminded each session not to eat any plant, leaf, berry, stick etc. Lords & Ladies leaves and berries also shouldn't be touched as can be an irritant to skin.	M	Discuss the Plant 'Lords and Ladies' that grows profusely in Mabel's Wood in late winter and mustn't be touched or eaten.	First session and regular reminders	T and TA
Pupil becomes unwell with pre-existing medical condition	Illness	Pupil	Take all pupil medicines to FS sessions.	M	Ensure a list of pupils with pre-existing conditions is compiled.	Each Session	T and TA
Communication over large site	Accident needing help from adults	Pupil/Adult	All adults take Walkie Talkies set to channel 1	M	Minimum of 3 adults during FS sessions 1 at each end and 1	Each session	T and TA

					in middle section of site.		
Barbed wire fence	Cuts, scratches	Pupil	Explain to children that the fence all around the site is topped with barbed wire which can cut skin if touched.	L		First session	T
Gate metal work	Bruising, cut or broken finger	Pupil/Adult	Children told not to touch the iron working on top of the entrance gate. It is very heavy and loose dropping with force.	L	Only Teacher and TA to touch metal work on gate	Each session	T and TA
Slope to entrance	Slip over and graze leg	Pupil/Adult	The slope from road to entrance gate is very muddy, steep and slippery. Children must be told to walk sensibly and carefully up and down it.	L		Each session	T and TA
Roads surrounding site	Injury / death	pupil	Ensure children know that they are never to leave site without an adult. On either side of site are roads one of which is a fast busy road.	L	Keep gate shut during sessions. Adults must communicate with T if they are taking a child to the toilet and shut gate on way out and in.	Each session	T and TA
Vehicle breaching woodland fence	injury / death	Pupil/Adult	Ensure children will not use the section of pathway unprotected by mature trees adjacent to the roadside (A252)	L	Cones used to mark sections not to be used. Explain to children what the cones mean.	Each session	T and TA