

Name of Policy: Forest School Risk Policy	Version/Last Review Date: December 2020 (Version 4)
Statutory documents linked to policy:	Previous review date: April 2013 (Version 1) April 2015 (Version 2) September 2017 (Version 3)
Other Policies linked to this policy: Health & Safety	Next Review Date: December 2023
Governor Committee Responsible	Curriculum & Research

WNA Vision: All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst enjoying and driving their own learning, gaining self-respect, self-esteem and self- belief. Our classroom extends to rich, exciting environments within the forest, the beach, the city and the community as a whole.

Risk Assessment Policy and Procedure

WNA aims to develop children's self-esteem, independence and motivation and keep children safe wherever they are. The Forest School Leader (FLS) is responsible for everyone's safety therefore the following procedures are in place for when children are off site:

1. Look for hazards
2. Decide who may be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks on site and decide whether existing controls are adequate or more should be done (situations and contexts are dynamic but remaining risk should be **low**)
4. Evaluate record amendments current risk assessments (dependent on a number of factors including site visits, observations, weather and groups of children)
5. Review assessments yearly (or if circumstances change) and revise

Risk Assessment Procedures:

The following procedures should be followed:

- Full risk assessments should be carried out for each site at Thornley Woods, Nature Park or other area and for each activity using tools, fire or string or rope
- Dynamic risk assessments should be carried out during the day and with changing weather and notes should be recorded
- Staff and volunteers should be informed of potential risks, hazards and working methods to minimise these. Appropriate training and instruction should be given to everyone (including children)
- Everyone (children, staff, volunteers) should be involved in risk assessing, minimising hazards and evaluating safe practices
- Any accident or near miss should be recorded and evaluated.