Risk Assessment – Knife and Carving tool use

To be read in conjunction with other risk generic assessments i.e. General Welfare and Weather, Daily/ Site Specific and emergency site information.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Risk Benefit: What is the benefit to the children of offering this experience?
Supervised activity using these tools allows participants to understand correct use of tools. Helps boost confidence and self-assurance. Encourages participants to have belief in their practical ability. Teaches new practical skills.
Encourages participants to take responsibility for their own and each other's health and wellbeing by following safety precautions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Probability Score:
<5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely
25% chance that it will occur
50% chance that it will occur
75% chance that it will occur
>95% chance that it will occur – very likely</td><td colspan="2">Severity Score
Not serious – no first aid required
Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid
Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention
Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention
Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality</td><td colspan="2">Calculate the risk levels:
The rating is calculated from the probability multiplied by the severity which will give a rating between 1 & 25.
Our Forest School will not be carrying out any activities deemed to have a revised rating of over 12 as they are deemed too dangerous</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hazard</td><td>Who is at risk and from what?</td><td>Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)</td><td>Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?</td><td>Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Accident/ Illness-</u></td><td>may suffer accident, illness requires treatment etc.</td><td>4x4=16</td><td>Induction and reminder health and safety talks given to emergency situation to new staff, volunteers and participants
Up to date first aid kit on site</td><td>1x3=3</td></tr>
</table>

			• Appropriate no. of first aid trained staff and volunteers on site during sessions • Accident book for incident recording on site • Emergency site information sheet available to direct emergency services to site • Charged mobile phone/s available and emergency site information form available to show directions to nearest main lines phone.	
<u>Storage of tool and equipment-</u> • returning of equipment to its storage facility or the FS Vehicle.	May suffer from falling items	2x2=4	• Knives to be kept in locked container • FS leader will lead and monitor • Tools to be numbered, counted out and counted in	1x2=2
<u>Moving tools and equipment to site-</u>	may suffer from trips or falls or other injuries due to incorrect carrying technique	3x3=9	• Warning to take more care given when ground is wet or slippery	1x3=3
<u>Lack of maintenance-</u>	may suffer injuries from broken parts or unsafe technique of use.	2x3=6	• Check all tools before use	1x3=3

			• Ensure tools are correctly maintained, including cleaning and sharpening • Clean and dry tools after use • Store damaged tools separately	
<u>Incorrect tool use-</u>	may suffer injury from incorrect tool use	2x4=8	• Instructions in correct tool use given to all staff, volunteers and participants including stance ie leaning over ones knees with legs wide apart and elbows on knees or standing using knife to the side of use and always away from oneself onto a suitable surface, positioning of body to tool(always side on to it or using it in the direction away from you) and distance from other people to be an arm's length. • 1 child per bench • Instructions on how to safely use knives and	1x3=3

			demonstration will be shown to all children before use. • Knives will be put back into sheaths or safety on when not in use • Knives will be counted out and in to ensure the full set are present at end of activity • No one should walk around without knife in sheath • When not is use all knives to be returned to locked container • Supervision by FS leader and other responsible adults, staff ration 1:4 max, 1:1 initially • When using Knives, cut resistant gloves to be used	
<u>Trips, Slips, Falls-</u>	are at risk from tripping over objects	2x2=4	• Make participants aware of trip hazards, uneven ground and muddy sloped • Prior Information sent to participants suggesting they wear sturdy outdoor footwear with a firm grip • Trip hazards and slippery surfaces mentioned in safety	1x2=2

			discussion can be made particularly important when carrying and using heavy or sharp tools. • FS leader should monitor ground conditions and fill out daily site check sheet before each session	
<u>Improper PPE</u>	Risk of injury from knife use to self or others	2x3=6	• Hair should be tied back and any loose clothing removed • Correct use of gloves should be ensured, ie not on the hand holding the knife • Cut Resistant gloves to be used	1x3=3
Poor Behaviour	Cuts or lacerations, severe bleeding which could be potentially fatal	5x5=25	• If staff are concerned that the behaviour is compromising the safety of their session they must immediately stop all tool work. • Tool work will only be taught to participants who are age and stage appropriate. Staff need to dynamically risk assess and decide whether participants are in the right frame of	2x5=10

			mind or not on any given day.	

Date : 3/10/2026 Signed by: Liz Cooke