Risk Assessment – Loppers and Secateurs

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

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.				
Probability Score: 1. <5% chance that it will occur – very unlikely 2. 25% chance that it will occur 3. 50% chance that it will occur 4. 75% chance that it will occur 5. >95% chance that it will occur – very likely	**Severity Score** 1. Not serious – no first aid required 2. Minor Injury – requiring basic first aid 3. Injury – requiring non immediate professional medical attention 4. Serious injury/multiple injuries – requiring immediate medical attention 5. Major accident – multiple injuries or fatality		**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	
Hazard	**Who is at risk and from what?**	**Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**	**Control measures to reduce the risk and actioned by whom?**	**Revised Risk Rating (Probability x Severity =)**
<u>Storage of tool and equipment</u>	May suffer from falling items	2x2=4	• Storage of tools and equipment in suitable, safe containers	1x2=2
<u>Moving tools and equipment to site-</u>	may suffer from trips or falls or other injuries due to incorrect carrying technique	2x3=6	• Secateurs must be carried closed with safety catch on and loppers must be carried	1x3=3`

			closed by bottom handle, at the side of the body with blades facing upwards • Warning to take more care given when ground is wet or slippery	
Lack of maintenance-	may suffer injuries from broken parts or unsafe technique of use.	2x3=6	• Check all tools before use • Ensure tools are correctly maintained, including cleaning and sharpening • Clean and dry tools after use • Store damaged tools separately	1x3=3
Incorrect tool use-	may suffer injury from incorrect tool use	2x3=6	• Instructions in correct tool use given to all staff, volunteers and participants including stance, positioning when carrying tool. distance from other people to be an arm, blood bubble and to keep fingers and limbs away from the mouth of the loppers/ the blade. • Supervision by FS leader and other responsible adults	1x3=3

			• Loppers and secateurs left closed in safe position when on ground and when in container as soon as task is finished.	
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 mind or not on any given day.	2x5=10

Date : 22/9/2026 Signed by: Liz Cooke