

COVID-19 Dynamic Risk Benefit Assessment for Schools 2021

Location:	School grounds	ASSESSOR:	Rachel Monteath - BEING Outdoors CIC	<u>COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT</u>	Date: Review: before if guidance changes	Jan 10th 2021 Review: on- going
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BENEFITS OF FOREST SCHOOL WITH BEING OUTDOORS

Being outdoors in nature is proven to reduce stress and anxiety, helps keep immunity strong, builds resilience and community and supports our physical health. As Forest School practitioners we are passionate about supporting our participants' wellbeing through nature connection and community building. As schools remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, this will continue to be at the heart of what we do and how we deliver our Forest School programmes in the future whilst ensuring that government advice is followed to ensure the safety of all our participants and our practitioners.

The Forest School Association states that, due to the nature of Forest School sessions and facilitating the play needs of children and young people, the most appropriate precaution that can be taken is to create and maintain learner 'bubbles'. SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies) has advised UK government that the risk of infection is significantly lower outside than inside and the UK government have also asked educators to 'consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors'.

Taking all this into consideration, BEING Outdoors CIC will seek to develop Forest School moving forward by supporting existing learner bubbles, and when guidance supports, creating and maintaining learner 'bubbles' for all our education and childcare groups. In conjunction, we have and will continue to seek advice and training to support Forest School provision that supports emotional, social and physical wellbeing in a safe way. CPD training as part of our Therapeutic Forest Practitioner practice we will also enable us to facilitate sessions that incorporate the following support to our participants:

- Supporting children & adults with PTSD at Forest School
- Supporting children with anxiety
- Bereavement support

As such, moving forward BEING Outdoors CIC FS sessions will provide:

- check-ins / check-outs to monitor mental wellbeing and changes during the session, supporting more self-awareness of emotions.
- time and space to support self-regulation, calming and anxiety reduction, self-expression and connecting to nature
- opportunities for play – supporting learner-led play where children can work through experiences including trauma as well nurturing creativity and self-motivation
- a community-centred programme – supporting collaborative learning, increased rapport between adults and children, trust and increased responsibility – encouraging social play in a physically distanced way
- physical wellbeing support -integrating physical activity into our programmes (e.g. tree-climbing, swing, taut-line), increasing movement and more fresh air to support concentration, provide grounding and raise self-esteem.

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BEING Outdoors CIC Forest School provision for Schools

UK Government Guidance – Schools and After-School Clubs (updated 8th January 2021)

- **Education attendance within schools (Including our FS programmes) and Out of School settings (e.g. After School Clubs) is for Critical Worker children and vulnerable children only (See link below for guidance of who is eligible to attend)**
- Children should be grouped together in consistent bubbles
- Contact between bubbles should be avoided
- Staff should continue to maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- **Singing is allowed with mitigation in place e.g. side by side rather than face to face outdoors, 2 metres apart, singing quietly / softly**
- After School Club providers should keep children in small, consistent groups of no more than 15 children with the same children each time and with at least 1 member of staff. Providers should liaise with the school, parents or early years settings so as far as possible children can be kept in a group with other children from the same bubble they are in during the day. Where this is not possible you should seek to keep the children in consistent groups as far as possible. This means that when your child attends the first session they will be placed in a particular group or class of children and they should remain in that group for future sessions. A staff member can supervise 2 small bubbles if necessary and appropriate to do so safely

From January 2021, BEING Outdoors CIC Forest School practitioners are able to continue to provide FS provision to their regular client groups within a school setting provided these groups remain the same cohort and schools want these programmes to continue.

We will no longer be able to run our BEING in the Woods after School Clubs during National Lockdown.

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Guidance links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950653/Education_and_childcare_settings_-_national_lockdown_from_5_January_2021_.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak#who-can-attend-after-school-clubs-and-out-of-school-activities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

COVID-19 DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT

All our Forest School practitioners will adopt the following approach as best practice for minimising transmission and supporting social distancing where practical to do so. This also takes into account advice from The Forest School Association (FSA) (www.forestschoollassociation.org).

The NHS and government guidance recommends:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available (FSA does not advise the use of hand-sanitizer only as the primary method due to mud and dirt accumulation rendering the gel ineffective)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in a lidded bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, mouth or facemask if your hands are not clean
- When wearing a facemask, you should clean hands before putting on your mask and then immediately after. When removing clean hands before removing, place the mask in a plastic sealable bag and then clean hands again. You should not wear your mask around your neck.

NOTE: The risk factor for children and younger people (without underlying health conditions) is significantly less than older people (including staff) and the wider community (where up to 1/ 3 of the population have underlying health conditions). The risk factor for vulnerable people is very high and so the control measures must be implemented rigorously in order to lower the residual risk

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	Hazard and the whom	1-5 Probability(p)	5 Severity (s) 1-	25 Rating (Pxs) 1-	Control measures to reduce the risk	Benefits
1	<p>Spread of Covid-19 during Forest School sessions - Participants</p> <p>Contracting the virus within the group setting</p> <p>Further cross-contamination within the community</p>	3	4	12	<p>As practitioners we are informing our participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the NHS recommendations listed above • Not attend sessions if they fall into one or more of the vulnerable groups listed by the NHS • Self-isolate for 10 days if they or any member of their household or support bubble has symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a high temperature ○ a new, continuous cough or ○ a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste • Seek a test as soon as you exhibit symptoms and inform us of the outcome • Not share food or snacks (no communal campfire food,) and participants in schools to bring their own drinks bottle where possible. • A flask of hot drink will be provided by BEING Outdoors CIC and schools are asked to provide their own cups for each bubble. 	<p>Raise awareness of and support good hand hygiene.</p> <p>Minimise cross-contamination within the bubble group.</p> <p>Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community</p>

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2	Spread of COVID-19 during Forest School sessions – Hand hygiene	3	4	12	<p>All participants and practitioners are to adopt the following hand-washing procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands at the start and end of the FS session at the hand-gel stations provided • Wash hands before and after using equipment e.g. tools, rope swing • Using a tippy-tap on school grounds where practicable to do so. This is due to the fact that alcohol gel is considered particularly unsuitable on its own in a FS setting where hands are likely to be covered in mud and soil. • Dry hands using paper towels provided and dispose immediately in the general waste bin (lidded) • Use alcohol-based (70%) hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available and use as an additional precautionary measure after washing hands with soap and water. • BEING Outdoors CIC to provide and make participants aware of the hand-gel, tissue station and bin for immediate disposal. • Markers / hoops will be used to support younger children with social distancing whilst lining up for the tippy tap. 	<p>Raise awareness of and support good hand hygiene. Develop an understanding of why soap is particularly important during outdoor FS sessions for good hand hygiene. Support encourage independent good hand hygiene. Minimise cross-contamination within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community</p>

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	Hazard and the whom	Probability/p) 1-5	Severity (s) 1-5	Rating (Pxs) 1-25	Control measures to reduce the risk	Benefits
3	<p>Equipment sharing / minimising practitioner contraction of virus (equipment to be appropriately cleaned between groups and that multiple groups do not use equipment simultaneously) Reducing resources that are touched frequently and require cleaning during a session between users.</p>	3	4	12	<p>. As practitioners we are actively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing bubbled sets of equipment (only used by that bubble). Equipment will then be cleaned between bubbles or replaced with a new set (which has already been isolated for 48 hours (72 hours plastic). Bubbled sets of equipment will include tarps, guide ropes, ropes for swings / rope ladders, string, books, mud kitchen pots, pans, pouring jugs, guttering, potion pots, pegs and rope lines. • Not allowing equipment and resources to be shared between bubbles of children unless it can be cleaned effectively using eco-disinfectant. The equipment must be easy to wipe cleanly effectively. Examples of equipment that can be cleaned effectively between users includes bug hunting pots, magnifying glasses • Omitting equipment that encourages close contact with the face or close contact with others in the bubble (e.g. binoculars, mirrors, hammocks, slackline) • String only to be used by a single individual for craft experiences and will be dispensed / cut by the FS leader or teaching staff only. • Providing core tools (hacksaws, firesteels, hammers) for use by one participant only per session if class bubbles permit and resources permit. Tools are cleaned after each session and colour coded / numbered for each participant. • Bowsaws and other saws, and billhooks / splitting knives will not be provided for schools during National Lockdown due to close nature of pair work / close support potentially required by the FS leader. • If a tool is needed by more than 1 participant (where pair work or close FS leader support is not needed) the tool will be cleaned with antibacterial cleaner before and after use (this is only applicable to the loppers currently). • Collecting used tools / gloves in a separate labelled lidded bucket for cleaning after the session (not to be reused once placed in the lidded bucket) • If facilitating more than one group - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects within our setting after each session (tippy tap, tools, hand gel dispensers, id charts, waste bucket) or clean and disinfect at the end of the day. • Informing ourselves of updated HSE and Govt advice and follow it accordingly • Informing people to seek further guidance about community transmission to more vulnerable groups (i.e. see HSE guidance) • Clean and disinfect our HAPPY BAG after each session. 	<p>Develop understanding of how viruses can spread through skin contact. Minimise cross-contamination within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community</p>

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	Hazard and the whom	Probability (p) 1-5	Severity (s) 1-5	Rating (Pxs) 1-25	Control measures to reduce the risk	Benefits
4	Bubbling resources for each FS group	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have one set of core equipment for each bubble for regularly used resources (e.g. tarps, clips, ropes, paracord, pots, pans and spoons, bug hunting kit, potion pots, pots n pans, guttering, pegs and washing line rope) Bug hunting kit (bag with bug viewer, magnifying glass, brush) to be used by a single participant only and not shared during a session. This kit will be used by that school bubble group only, taken home and stored after use in a designated outdoor space for at least 48 hours before next use (or 72 hours for plastics) . 	Continue to facilitate learner-led unstructured play Support wellbeing and the personal development of each learner through self-motivated, achievable experiences
5	Shared resources between the setting and home	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bags and personal items (coats, hats, gloves, drinks bottles) are kept away from others e.g. at fire circle logs or at designated spaces. No tools, resources or books to be brought from home. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community Minimise cross-contamination within the bubble group.
6	SOCIAL DISTANCING (2 metres outdoors) - PHYSICAL DISTANCING WHILST MAINTAINING SOCIAL PLAY	3	4	12	<p>As practitioners we actively and regularly put in place social distancing measures where practical to do so during our sessions. This provides opportunities for participants to gain a better understanding of what social distancing looks like physically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only facilitate sessions with a maximum of 15 participants and a minimum of 2 staff (or scale or e.g. class of 30 and 4 staff where possible). Will not plan for physical contact games e.g. tag, sardines, group cooking, role play, rough n tumble play Have fire circle seating 1m apart with side to side seating. Each participant to use the same log / clean with eco-soapy water between bubbles. Coat to be kept on their own log or designated space Chalkboards with resources to be placed strategically around the wood providing experiences for participants to try that can be done independently to support non-contact play. Use tickling hands spread out to space during circle time if no log circle present. Markers / hoops will be used to support younger children with social distancing whilst lining up for the tippy tap / swing / rope ladder etc socially distancing as much as is practicable from school staff and participants and support participants preferably side-by-side when closer social and emotional support is needed whilst wearing a mask. Please note here that emotional wellbeing will take priority at all times. All adults (FS leaders, support staff, parents, carers) to maintain social distancing of 2 metres at all times during sessions. 	Children have a better awareness of 1 & 2 metres social distancing and are able to implement it more effectively during their play.

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	Hazard and the whom	Probability/p 1-5	Severity (s) 1-5	Rating (Pxs) 1-25	Control measures to reduce the risk	Benefits
7	Potential symptoms during a session	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the school protocol if a child falls ill during a FS session and isolate from the group. School staff to supervise the participant who has fallen ill where possible Staff supervising the participant to wear gloves, mask and apron. A face shield should be worn if the participant is coughing / sneezing. If a participant has symptoms and needs to self-isolate following a FS session school should inform BEING Outdoors CIC as soon as possible to enable appropriate action to be taken by the relevant staff, particularly if practitioners were in close contact with the participant. If BEING Outdoors CIC staff show symptoms they are advised to seek a test which they have access to straight away and self-isolate. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
8	Accidents requiring First Aid	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to facilitate experiences that reduce risk of an accident School staff only to provide First Aid and follow school protocol where possible. Participant to be seated to facilitate side by side FA provision BEING Outdoors CIC staff to provide First Aid if school staff not immediately available and FA is necessary side by side rather than face to face wherever possible. BEING Outdoors CIC staff to wear a face-mask and gloves whilst administering First Aid. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
9	Waste management	3	4	12	<p>Our approach follows the guidance – ‘Catch it, bin it, kill it’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tissues, face masks and disposable gloves to be placed in the general waste bin at the end of each session before removal If a participant shows symptoms during a session waste should be double bagged before removal. Bags are left for 72 hours in a designated area then disposed of in general waste. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
10	Spare clothing / change of clothes	3	4	12	<p>Children encouraged to wear uniform appropriate for outdoor play and Forest School to minimise clothing brought in from home.</p> <p>Children to put on and remove FS wellies / boots outside and place in the designated area at school.</p> <p>BEING Outdoors CIC will not be able to assist in changing into or out of FS kit. This is solely the responsibility of school staff.</p> <p>Spare clothing where needed will have been bubbled for 48 hours prior to use and stored in a bag to be cleaned in a washing machine before use again.</p>	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community

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11	Entry and exit points	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BEING Outdoor CIC practitioners and associates to follow the school protocols for entry and exit to school and their FS area. All BEING Outdoors CIC staff to wear a face mask when entering and exiting school. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
12	Transportation of equipment to and from school site / Shield Tree Wood	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment and resources will be stored in the same car location e.g. boot of car. School specific core equipment to be stored together in a large bag for ease of carrying to and from site Clean tools to be transported in a lockable tool box To be cleaned resources (tools, gloves) are to be placed in a clearly labelled lidded bucket for transport back home for washing and disinfecting / resting for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 to other bubble groups. Minimise the spread of COVID-19 to staff
13	Cleaning / resting / 'bubbling' equipment and resources	3	4	12	<p>Toilets to be cleaned after each session (Shield Tree Wood) – using eco-disinfectant (1,000 parts / million available chlorine)</p> <p>Bins to be emptied after each session and waste double bagged before disposal.</p> <p>Wipeable tables to be wiped after each session using eco-disinfectant</p> <p>Kit for cleaning to be placed in a tub and washed with eco-liquid detergent. Kit to be air dried on site where possible or taken home for drying in a designated outside area and stored outside for resting for 48hours (72 hours for plastics)</p> <p>'Bubbling' resources (for 1 small group only) will be stored after use in a designated area in a garage.</p>	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
14	Changing / tracking guidance	3	4	12	<p>All BEING Outdoors CIC practitioners and associates to discuss weekly current social distancing and hygiene precautions and feed into our site specific RAs.</p> <p>BEING Outdoors CIC practitioners to continue to carry out dynamic RAs and take appropriate steps to support social distancing and hygiene.</p> <p>Any site specific changes to RA will be fed back to school staff that day or as soon as practical prior to the next session.</p> <p>RM to check daily Government updates, Derbyshire County Council Health, and FSA guidance. Any changes fed back to all FS associates.</p>	FS staff and associates are up to date with government guidance and able to implement changes effectively in a timely way.

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15	Driving to and from work	2	4	8	BEING Outdoors CIC practitioners are advised to stay 2 metres away from other people where possible and wash hands as soon as they arrive at the school. If staff need to stop on route and cannot wash their hands they should use an alcohol based sanitiser and are advised not to touch their face, avoid eating or drinking and wash their hands as soon as they can If needing petrol they should wear impervious gloves where available and / or wash hands. As a precaution wipe car touch points when you get home.	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
16	Staff entering, using and leaving the school building	3	4	12	All BEING Outdoors CIC practitioners should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear face-masks at all times • sign in and out following school protocol • avoid walking though the school building wherever possible and use outdoor space as much as is practical • follow school specific procedures for toilet use. • have an agreed location for meeting the group outside with the group brought to the practitioner by a member of the school staff. 	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community
17	Campfire snacks and cooking	3	4	12	Our current practise has been adopted to support community cohesion within our sessions around the campfire whilst following robust food hygiene standards. Campfire snacks (e.g. Marshmallows, crumpets, waffles) are cooked by the FS leader only and will be limited to finger food that does not require plates / bowls. Food is passed to the participants using tongs or a cup / spoon (e.g. popcorn) Hot drinks are pre-prepared in a flask by the FS leader. Cups are to be provided by the school All cooking utensils used by the FS leader are placed in the washing up bucket immediately following use. All utensils are washed after the session in a dishwasher and then stored in a sealed box until next use. FS practitioners will ensure hands are washed with soap and running water (to remove dirt) and hand-gel prior to and following handling food, cutlery and crockery	Improved community cohesion. Encourages children to try new foods in a supportive setting
18	Cancellation of outdoors FS session due to high winds / extreme weather conditions – BEING Outdoors staff working in multiple schools / bubbles	3	4	12	BEING Outdoors CIC request that an indoor space e. hall with external door is provided which can be well ventilated e.g. with doors / windows opened BEING Outdoors CIC FS leaders will wear masks at all times indoors (due to the fact that our practitioners work in multiple school settings ./ multiple bubbles) BEING Outdoors CIC staff will remain 2 metres from all children and staff at all times If an appropriate well-ventilated indoor space is not available BEING Outdoors CIC staff will not be able to continue the session and will transfer the group back to their class teacher / support staff.	Minimise the spread of COVID-19 to staff Minimise spread of COVID-19 to other bubble groups.

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19	Asymptomatic risk of spreading	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral Flow tests – when schools are able to provide tests, BEING Outdoors CIC staff ask that they can be included in the testing procedures for ongoing monitoring purposes All BEING Outdoors CIC staff will wear face masks when they feel it is appropriate during sessions to do so and if social distancing of 2m is compromised 	Reducing risk of spreading if asymptomatic

Risk Assessment scoring- Scores of 8 and above cease activity or reassess the control measures

Likelihood		Hazard severity	
1	Very unlikely	1	Minor injury, scratches, bruises, burns etc.
2	Unlikely	2	Moderate injury, cuts, grazing, burns etc.
3	Likely	3	Serious- Person requires hospital treatment or time off school/work
4	Very likely	4	Significant, risk of death or loss of limbs/ eyesight etc.