

## COVID-19 Dynamic Risk Benefit Assessment

Location:	Gatley Primary	ASSESSOR:	Rachel Monteath- BEING Outdoors	<b><u>COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT</u></b>	Date: Review: before if guidance changes	22/06/2020 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
<b>BENEFITS OF FOREST SCHOOL WITH BEING OUTDOORS</b>						
<p><b>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 start to open, 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, their families and our practitioners.</b></p> <p><b>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'.</b></p> <p><b>Taking all this into consideration, BEING Outdoors will seek to develop Forest School moving forward by supporting existing learner bubbles, and when guidance supports, creating and maintaining learner 'bubbles' for families and community 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:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Supporting children &amp; adults with PTSD at Forest School</b></li><li>• <b>Supporting children with anxiety</b></li><li>• <b>Bereavement support</b></li></ul> <p><b>As such, moving forward BEING Outdoors FS sessions will provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>check-ins / check-outs to monitor mental wellbeing and changes during the session, supporting more self-awareness of emotions.</b></li><li>• <b>time and space to support self-regulation, calming and anxiety reduction, self-expression and connecting to nature</b></li><li>• <b>opportunities for play – supporting learner-led play where children can work through experiences including trauma as well nurturing creativity and self-motivation</b></li><li>• <b>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</b></li><li>• <b>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.</b></li></ul>						

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Location:	School grounds	ASSESSOR:	Rachel Montearth- BEING Outdoors	<b><u>COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT</u></b>	Date: Review:	22/06/2020 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (or sooner if advise changes)
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#### **BEING Outdoors Forest School provision**

##### **UK Government Guidance – schools and groups (30/05/2020)**

- From 1<sup>st</sup> of June people should be returning to work where it is safe for them to do so.
- All childcare will be able to re-open from 1<sup>st</sup> June subject to having appropriate protective measure in place. The range of children eligible to return to school will also be expanded from 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- One action is to split classes in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group.
- You can meet up to 6 people (including yourself) outside your household – maintaining social distancing of 2 metres at all times.
- Outdoor Sport & Recreation guidance states that groups of up to 6 including the coach / trainer can meet maintaining social distancing of 2 metres at all times
- Larger groups of people meeting up who would not ordinarily be together, is currently not permitted with 4<sup>th</sup> July the earliest that this is expected to be reviewed.

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> June, BEING Outdoors Forest School practitioners will 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.**

**Family and community group sessions (including parties, Saplings in the Forest, Woodland Camps and WELLBEING Outdoors) will remain suspended until government advice changes and until we feel it is appropriate for our participants in terms of supporting wellbeing and social distancing.**

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### 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](http://www.forestschoollassociation.org)).

The NHS 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 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 the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean

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

	Hazard and the whom	1-5 Probability(p)	1-5 Severity (s)	1-25 Rating (Pxs)	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"> <li>• Follow the NHS recommendations listed above</li> <li>• Not attend sessions if they fall into one or more of the vulnerable groups listed by the NHS</li> <li>• Self-isolate for 14 days if they or any member of their household has a high temperature or even a mild cough</li> <li>• Not share food or snacks (no communal campfire food,) and participants in schools to bring their own drinks bottle where possible.</li> <li>• A flask of water will be provided and individual numbered cups to be used if drinks bottles are not available.</li> </ul>	<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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	Hazard and the whom	Probability/p 1-5	Severity (s) 1-5	Rating (Pxs) 1-25	Control measures to reduce the risk	Benefits
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"> <li>• Wash hands at the start and end of the FS session</li> <li>• Wash hands before and after using equipment e.g. tools, rope swing, wheelbarrows</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Dry hands using paper towels provided and dispose immediately in the general waste bin</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• BEING Outdoors to provide and make participants aware of the hand-gel, tissue station and bin for immediate disposal.</li> </ul>	<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>
3	Equipment sharing / minimising practitioner contraction of virus (equipment to be appropriately cleaned between groups and that multiple groups do not to use equipment simultaneously)	3	4	12	<p>. As practitioners we are actively and regularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Omitting equipment</b> that encourages close contact with the face (e.g. <b>binoculars, mirrors, some mud kitchen resources, hammocks</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Omitting soft toys, puppets and resources</b> that are intricate and difficult to clean including <b>hammocks and blankets</b>.</li> <li>• <b>String / wool</b> only to be used by a single individual and not to be used for group building or craft experiences.</li> <li>• Providing <b>core tools</b> (hacksaws, firesteels, hammers) for use by one participant only per session – no sharing wherever possible. Tools are cleaned after each session and colour coded / numbered for each participant. If a tool is needed by more than 1 participant the tool will be wiped with an antibac wipe before use.</li> <li>• Collecting used tools / scissors / gloves in a separate labelled bucket for cleaning after the session (not to be reused once placed in the box)</li> <li>• Where rope is used e.g. tautline – each participant will need to apply hand gel before using the equipment.</li> <li>• If facilitating more than one group - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects within our setting after each session (tippy tap, tools, gloves, id charts, waste bucket) or clean and disinfect at the end of the day.</li> <li>• Informing ourselves of updated HSE and Govt advice and follow it accordingly</li> </ul>	<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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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing people to seek further guidance about community transmission to more vulnerable groups (i.e. see HSE guidance)</li> <li>Clean and disinfect our HAPPY BAG after each session.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Hazard and the whom</b>	<b>Probability(p) 1-5</b>	<b>Severity (s) 1-5</b>	<b>Rating (Pxs) 1-25</b>	<b>Control measures to reduce the risk</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
4	Bubbling resources for each FS group	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have one set of core equipment for each school group for regularly used resources (e.g. tarps, clips, pots, pans and spoons, sisal, string, scissors, bug hunting kit)</li> <li><b>Bug hunting kit</b> (bag with bug viewer, magnifying glass, brush) to be used by a single participant only and not shared during a session.</li> <li>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 72 hours before next use .</li> </ul>	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"> <li>No resources or craft products can be taken home</li> <li>Bags and personal items (coats, hats, gloves, drinks bottles) are kept away from others e.g. at fire circle logs or at designated spaces.</li> <li>No tools, resources or books to be brought from home.</li> </ul>	Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community Minimise cross-contamination within the bubble group.
6	SOCIAL DISTANCING (2 metres) - 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"> <li>Only facilitate sessions with a maximum of 15 participants and a minimum of 2 staff.</li> <li>Will not plan for physical contact games e.g. tag, sardines, group cooking, role play, rough n tumble play</li> <li>Have fire circle seating 2m apart. Each participant to use the same log each session.</li> <li>Coat and bag to be kept on their own log or designated space</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Use a rope (with 2m knots) to place on the ground during a standing circle time</li> <li>Use a distancing stick (with 1m stick and 1 metre ribbon) to use as a visual aid during the session</li> </ul>	Children have a better awareness of 2 metres social distancing and are able to implement it more effectively during their play.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. Please note here that emotional wellbeing will take priority at all times.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Hazard and the whom</b>	<b>Probability(p) 1-5</b>	<b>Severity (s) 1-5</b>	<b>Rating (Pxs) 1-25</b>	<b>Control measures to reduce the risk</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
7	Potential symptoms during a session	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the school protocol if a child falls ill during a FS session and isolate from the group.</li> <li>Staff supervising the participant to wear gloves,mask and apron.</li> <li>If a participant has symptoms and needs to self-isolate following a FS session school should inform BEING Outdoors 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.</li> <li>If BEING staff show symptoms they are advised to seek a test which they have access to.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>Staff to facilitate experiences that reduce risk of an accident</li> <li>School staff only to provide First Aid and follow school protocol where possible.</li> <li>Participant to be seated to facilitate side by side FA provision</li> <li>BEING Outdoors staff to provide First Aid wearing gloves, mask and apron if school staff not immediately available and FA is necessary.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>Tissues, face masks and disposable gloves to be placed in the general waste bin at the end of each session before removal</li> <li>If a participant shows symptoms during a session waste should be double bagged before removal.</li> <li>Bags are left for 72 hours in a designated area then disposed of in general waste.</li> </ul>	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 on the racks/ area provided. They should not be brought back into school.</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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	<b>Hazard and the whom</b>	<b>Probability(p) 1-5</b>	<b>Severity (s) 1-5</b>	<b>Rating (Pxs) 1-25</b>	<b>Control measures to reduce the risk</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
11	Entry and exit points	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BEING Outdoor practitioners and associates to follow the school protocols for entry and exit to the FS area.</li> </ul>	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"> <li>All equipment and resources will stored in the same car location e.g. boot of car.</li> <li>School specific core equipment to be stored together in a large bag for ease of carrying to and from site</li> <li>Clean tools to be transported in a lockable tool box</li> <li>To be cleaned resources (tools, gloves, scissors) are to be placed in a clearly labelled bucket for transport back home for washing and disinfecting / resting for 72 hours</li> </ul>	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>Bins to be emptied after each session and waste double bagged before disposal. Kit for cleaning to be placed in a tub and washed with liquid soap. 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 72 hours. 'Bubbling' resources (for 1 small group only) will be stored after use in a designated area outside / 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	Lack of current information / guidance	3	4	12	<p>All BEING Outdoors practitioners and associates to discuss weekly current social distancing and hygiene precautions and feed into our site specific RAs. BEING Outdoors practitioners to continue to carry out dynamic RAs and take appropriate steps to support social distancing and hygiene. 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. 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.
15	Driving to and from work	2	4	8	<p>BEING Outdoors 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.</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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16	Staff entering, using and leaving the school building	3	4	12	<p>All BEING Outdoors practitioners should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sign in and out following school protocol</li> <li>• avoid walking through the school building wherever possible and use outdoor space as much as is practical</li> <li>• follow school specific procedures for toilet use.</li> <li>• have an agreed location for meeting the group outside with the group brought to the practitioner by a member of the school staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Minimise spread of COVID-19 within the bubble group. Minimise spread of COVID-19 within participant families and the wider community</p>
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**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.