



FOREST SCHOOL

Safety Guide

School Education

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KEY BENEFITS

Resilience Building

Enhances resilience and self regulation through challenging outdoor tasks.

Problem Solving

Builds problem solving, risk assessment, and persistence.

Nature Connection

Strengthens connection with nature and environmental stewardship.

Wellbeing

Increases wellbeing through time outdoors and reflective practice.

KEY HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES**Sharp Tools**

- ✓ Tool use training before handling
- ✓ 1:1 supervision for new tool users
- ✓ Age-appropriate tools selected
- ✓ Designated safe zones for tool work

Fire Lighting

- ✓ Fire pit in designated location
- ✓ Water/sand available to extinguish
- ✓ Fire safety rules taught and enforced
- ✓ Fire never left unattended

Tree Climbing

- ✓ Trees assessed for suitability
- ✓ One climber per tree at a time
- ✓ Height limits set and communicated
- ✓ Adult supervision during climbing

Weather

- ✓ Weather checked before each session
- ✓ Shelter available if needed
- ✓ Appropriate clothing required
- ✓ Session cancelled in extreme conditions

PRE-SESSION SAFETY CHECKLIST**Risk Assessment**

- Complete and review risk assessment for this activity
- Brief all staff on key risks and emergency procedures
- Ensure all identified hazards have control measures in place

Site

- Site walkthrough done
- Boundaries identified
- Hazardous trees checked
- Emergency access clear

Equipment

- Tools inspected
- First aid kit stocked
- Fire equipment ready
- Communication devices charged

Conditions

- Weather forecast checked
- Appropriate for activities
- Ground conditions assessed
- Shelter plan in place

Group

- Ratios appropriate
- Clothing suitable
- Medical info accessible
- Boundaries explained



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