



Wild Souls at Wardley Hall with Take Action Together General Risk Assessment

This RA is a guide, due to the nature of the children attending, we will implement dynamic RA regularly to reduce stress and keep sessions accessible for all attendees.

H= High Risk

M=Medium Risk

L=Low Risk

Number	Risk/Hazard	Possible harm	Risk Rating H M L	Existing Controls	Further Action to reduce risk	Revised Risk Rating H M L	Risk Benefit
1	Dog dirt	Risks to child's health if contact with eyes or ingested	L	Private woodland with a large dead hedge boundary, minimal dog walking going on	Wild Souls staff and volunteers will do a sweep of the area before sessions and clear away any dog dirt.	L	
2	Wood markers for path/steps	Wood gets very slippery when wet. Can cause attendees to slip.	M	Paths are wide and have barked area in between	Wild Souls staff will remind attendees of hazards and check areas before the children attend.	L	Gives clear passage through the FS site and stops disturbing wild areas with human footfall.
3	Being in a space where young people can walk out of	Risk of losing attendee, attendee, members of the public walking in accidentally with dogs..	M	An obvious boundary will be visible to keep attendees in and hopefully members of the public out. Older attendees will have the boundary explained and have ample members of staff present to check where children are. All of the site is visible from the fire circle.	Regular head counts will be taken throughout the sessions. Attendees will be reminded of the boundary regularly throughout the session. We will also rope sections where the boundary isn't clear. In addition, we will ask members of the public to not enter the clear boundary if they are	L	Attendees understand that others use wild spaces and we all have collective responsibility to care for it.

					dog walking.		
4	Trips and Falls	Attendees could trip or fall on terrain causing injury, minor or major.	M	Wild Souls will conduct sessions on pre-assessed areas of the woodland within the boundary. These areas will be appropriate for the week's session, but may vary depending on activity or season. There will be at least one qualified first aider present at each session.	Areas will be checked for any potential risks such as fallen branches, muddy areas, prior to the session. They will be removed or avoided where necessary. A first aid bag will be present at every session. If children want to leave the boundary, they must be accompanied by a staff member who will conduct a dynamic risk assessment.	L	attendee improve their gross motor skills and physical fitness
5	Allergies including hayfever	Attendee can have an allergic reaction to something they eat, or something in the environment	M	Medical forms will be filled out prior to starting the sessions. Any food that can cause allergies will be avoided. Parents/carers will be responsible for administering any antihistamines for hayfever, prior to sessions starting. Parents/carers will provide any epipens to staff if not staying.	Wild Souls would provide a snack that limits the risk of an allergic reaction.	L	

6	Car parking	Attendee being knocked over by cars	M	There will be a meet up point where parents and carers hand their child over to staff, if not staying. Parents/carers will be responsible for their child before this. The meet up point is pedestrian only. Children arriving late are brought to the woodland by their parents/carer.	All access to the road will be closed/outside the session boundary during the session. Staff will ensure all children stay within the boundary.	L	
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7	Moving around the site	Attendees running into things, falling over, branches falling.	M	<p>Any areas of the site that we visit will be checked beforehand by a member of Wild Souls.</p> <p>Trees will have crowns raised if they become a hazard for attendees.</p> <p>Pre-session tree survey will be completed to highlight any trees that need monitored.</p>	<p>First aid policy will be followed.</p> <p>Session will be cancelled in high winds</p>	L	attendees develop ownership of learning and independence. They become aware of how to move safely around their environment.
8	Sunny, hot weather	Sunburn, dehydration, heat stroke	M	Wild Souls will advise parents/carers prior to sessions about appropriate clothing including sun hats and sunscreen. Attendees will be provided with drinks throughout the session.	Throughout the sessions, we will encourage attendees to have plenty of water and move sessions into the shade if it is too hot.	L	attendee will see how nature changes and adapts to different weather patterns
9	Windy, stormy weather	Falling branches, debris blowing about	M	Sessions will be cancelled - see cancellation policy.		L	attendee will see how nature changes and adapts to different weather patterns
10	Cold, snowy weather	Attendees getting cold, slipping on ice, falling on hard ground	M	Wild Souls staff will advise parents/carers/schools prior to sessions about	We will do activities to get attendees running around to warm them	L	attendee will see how nature changes and

				appropriate clothing, including layering and warm accessories.	up. Warm drinks and snacks will be provided around the campfire.		adapts to different weather patterns
11.	Fire circle	Burns, smoke in eyes	M	<p>Rules: Only enter the fire circle if invited. Move around the outside of the fire circle if you want to move seats.</p> <p>attendees can not add wood to the fire unless they are with a member of staff.</p>	<p>There will always be a Wild Souls member of staff present near the fire circle.</p> <p>attendees can move sensibly if there is smoke going in their eyes.</p> <p>Dynamic risk assessment in place for these attendees</p>	L	attendees will experience the magic of campfire and how it has been an integral part of communities for 1000 of years. They will learn how to be safe and responsible around fire and treat it with respect.
12.	Campfire cooking	Burns	M	<p>Attendees only approach the fire circle if invited. At least one member of staff has outdoor first aid qualification.</p> <p>First aid kit to hand at all times.</p> <p>Clear fire safety policy and procedures in place.</p>	<p>Attendees adopt the respect position while cooking at the fire.</p> <p>Attendees are given clear, age appropriate instructions to follow while cooking at the fire.</p>	L	attendee learn new skills and respect how fire can provide us with nourishment as well as heat.

13.	Foraging	Ingesting poisonous flora - lots of fungi on site at the moment	M	Attendees are aware of our foraging code of practice. Staff follow foraging policy and procedure.	Never pick anything before asking a member of staff. Never eat anything without asking a member of staff first. Always wash whatever you pick. Rub the plant below your lip, leave it a minute, if no reaction, safe to eat. Follow emergency first aid procedure if necessary.	L	Huge benefits for attendees to identify what is edible on their 'doorstep'. It;s great to know what is safe to eat, but these days attendees are very disconnected from where their food comes from. Eating food grown in our local area has huge environmental implications.
14.	Tool use	Cuts and other tool related injuries.	M	Attendees will only use age appropriate tools. They will be used under the supervision of trained Level 3 forest school leaders. All tools will be stored in a locked trunk, unless being used. A member of staff with first aid qualification will always be present during sessions.	A tool pit will be established, Attendees can only enter the tool pit if invited. attendees will be shown how to use tools safely and respectfully. Staff will follow our tool policy and procedure at all times. The use of tools will comply with our staff to child ratio, see handbook for details.	L	Creativity, new skills, the joy of making something from scratch and being part of a process. It teaches patience and problem solving.

15.	Food preparation	Cross contamination of bacteria	M	Wild Souls staff have a level 1 food hygiene certificate. Wild Souls will never prepare and/or cook meat or fish during our sessions.	Hands will be washed thoroughly before food preparation. Surfaces will be washed with antibacterial spray before food preparation. All utensils will be clean before and after use, using boiling water. A food preparation table will be available for use.	L	Learn how to prepare food hygienically, and contribute skills to the learning community.
16.	Felled/fallen trees	Slipping off or tree breaking under foot	M	Wild souls will raise which trees can hold weight of attendees prior to session	We will remind attendees, throughout the session, that the wood is slippery and to take care when climbing.		Encourage users to take responsible risks and assess the dangers themselves.
17.	Tree climbing	Falling from the tree	M	Wild Souls will have identified suitable trees to climb prior to sessions beginning. We remind children to keep their body close to the trunk of the tree and not to weight bear on branches thinner than their legs.	Attendees can only climb trees that they can access independently, they will not be allowed ladders or a 'step up'. They can only climb as high as 5 m and they should be comfortable getting up and down independently.	L	Improve gross motor skills Build confidence Build self esteem Encourage risk and exploration

18	Sloped paths	Slips/falling down, especially if wet	M	Area of site RA before use, nothing at the bottom that would cause injury	Tell children at the beginning of session and throughout if necessary that they may slip.	L	Creativity Play Resourcefulness Imagination Collaboration Core strength
19	Nettles	Stings	M	Attendee will wear long sleeves and trousers, even in summer	We harvesting nettles we will use gloves	L	Learn how versatile this 'weed' is Learn about ecosystems (butterflies lay eggs on nettles) Make tea Make soup Make twine
20	Brambles	Cuts and scratches	M	attendee will wear long sleeves and trousers, even in summer	When foraging fruit, attendee will wear gloves and have arms and legs covered	L	Forage fruit to create food, teas, preserves.

21	Roots/brambles underfoot	Trips and falls - lots of cut tree stumps throughout the site	H	Tell attendees before the session starts about the terrain.	Encourage using 'forest feet' - being mindful of where you step.	L	Give the attendees autonomy when assessing risk.
22	Public access at certain point of site with no gate	Members of the public coming in or attendees going out of the boundary.	M	Take children around the site to make it explicit where the boundary should be	Have areas with unclear boundaries, roped off.	L	Attendees understand that it part of a wider natural area/woodland that others use and we should respect it.
23	Antibacterial spray and cleaning products	attendee get in eyes or ingest it.	L	Keep in a closed box out of the eyesight of attendee.	Remind attendee that it is for adult use only. Follow accident and emergency procedures if needed.	L	

24	Areas to avoid	No risk to attendee - just need to allow plants, area to establish	L	Rope off areas to avoid footfall and monitor other areas for heavy footfall - rotate if necessary.			Allow natural environment to thrive without human footfall
25	Toilet	Contaminating water source and safeguarding	M	<p>Toilet are chemical portaloos</p> <p>Young people go to the toilet independently as they are on site.</p> <p>Young people should aim to tell staff, staff always have a visual on toilet to understand where participants are</p>	Remind children of toileting procedures.		
26	Swings and hammocks	Swings and hammocks snapping and attendee falling out	M	<p>Never hang a swing or hammock to a dead or rotting tree.</p> <p>Limit the number of people who can go on it at one time - U12 =2 O12=1. (dynamic ra in play)</p>	Monitor swing and hammock use throughout the session, if they look like they are fraying/tearing, take down.	L	Social, pleasure, risk taking, play, enjoyment, problem solving opportunities etc

				Ensure area around the swing/hammock is free of hazards e.g. brambles, sticks to fall on to.			
27	Slackline	Snapping, tripping over it, other children flipping and hitting someone or bouncing another attendee off the slackline.	M	<p>Ensure Slackline is bright colour so it stands out in woodland.</p> <p>Attach to healthy trees, strong trees - lookout for rotting and dead wood.</p> <p>Ensure area around the slackline is free of hazards e.g. brambles, sticks to fall on to.</p>	Monitor use throughout the sessions - if children aren't using it safely - suggest ways to improve their safety.	L	Social, pleasure, risk taking, play, enjoyment, problem solving opportunities etc
28	Working with clay and natural material such as wood	<p>Ingesting natural materials.</p> <p>Minor cuts, splinters and scrapes from using natural materials such as wood and stones</p> <p>Wool hanging in trees and catching on people (hanging decorations made)</p>	M	<p>Work with the young people to choose safe natural materials, explain that wood can cause splinters.</p> <p>Follow accident procedure if any scrapes, splinters or cuts.</p> <p>Qualified first aider present.</p>	Ensure hands are washed after working with clay and any other natural material, particularly before eating.	L	<p>Being creative</p> <p>Exploring textures and mediums</p> <p>Tactile benefits of nature</p>

