

## Risk Assessment and Risk Benefit Policy

This policy has been written following the guidance from:

- Cambium Sustainable.
- Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Bus Stop Forest School Training aims to reduce the risk of harm to students during their training days by identifying potential risks or hazards and removing these or minimising the risk/hazard. The Bus Stop Forest School Training, also understand that they are legally required to assess risks/hazards in the workplace and have plans in place to control the risks/hazard.

It is the responsibility of the Bus Stop Forest School Trainers to carry out risk assessments and review these regularly. Risk assessments in place are as follows:

- Daily Risk Assessment – carried out before each training day.
- Forest School Shed Risk Assessment.
- Using and Maintaining Tools Risk Assessment.
- Camp Fire Risk Assessment.
- Walking to Site Risk Assessment.
- Mobile Phone and Camera Risk Assessment.

During the registration process students are sent a copy of the Health and Safety policy and are made aware that it is their responsibility to help reduce and identify potential risks during their training.

During Forest School training students are taught how to write a Risk Assessment and Risk Benefit for their own provision and carry out an assessment around the forest, alongside the guidance of their Forest School Trainer.

Risk Assessments for unplanned activities, may not always be recorded, it is the role of the Trainer to manage the risk of the activity and make changes or stop an activity if risk to students arise.

When completing a Risk Assessment, the following points are considered:

- Risk Benefit and Learning Opportunities.
- Potential Hazard/Risk identified and risk scale.
- Who may be harmed and how?
- What are the precautions in place?
- Evaluate precautions in place, are they adequate?
- Review the risk scale and further action needed,
- Date of review and by whom it was completed.

If a risk is deemed too great than the object and or activity is stopped/removed until a thorough Risk Assessment can be completed.

In addition to recorded Risk Assessments and Risk Benefits, the Forest School Trainer will carry out on the spot risk assessments of a student's personal and emotional needs and of their safe use of handling tools, equipment and use of fire. Please see below two examples of on the spot risk assessments:

- Assessing Personal Needs: The Tool Area at Pre-School is prepared for use by the children and may not be appropriate for a student. When a child uses a palm drill, they are taught to kneel, however some adults may struggle to kneel on the ground, so instead tree stumps can be provided for adults to sit on.
- Handling of Tools and Equipment: The Forest School Trainer will supervise the use of tools and equipment and continue to teach and guide the students until they are certain the student is competent at handling the tools and equipment safely.

#### Useful Resources and Website

- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) [www.rosipa.co.uk](http://www.rosipa.co.uk)

This policy was reviewed in May 2025, to be reviewed in September 2025.

Signed by Lead FS Trainer \_\_\_\_\_ FS Trainer \_\_\_\_\_