

## Whitley Chapel First School – Forest Schools Risk Assessments

### Risk Assessment for an Open Fire

The purpose of an open fire is to offer the children an acceptable risk activity to enhance their learning opportunities and own coping strategies. If we only provide a sanitised environment and risk adverse activities children will not explore and discover the world for themselves, they will only experience a safety conscious environment. However safeguards must be in place to ensure the activity is at an appropriate level for their abilities and understanding without turning the activity into a safety first pursuit.

- Encounters with certain types of risk help children to learn how to manage those risks. To help children with this they will be briefed on safety rules about being beside fire.
- Only children willing to participate will be included in the activity. Those with fears of fire will have the opportunity to talk to staff for reassurance.
- Children will use designated sticks to cook on the open fire (toast, marshmallows etc).
- Children will be asked questions about the fire, cooking and safety to enhance their understanding.

| Hazard                | Harm                         | At risk | Existing measures / new measures  | Who will do it? When?  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------|---|--|
| Fire & heat           | Burning to skin & clothes    | All     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supervision of the fire: one person to be sat beside fire at all times while alight or hot embers remain, to ensure children do not have unsupervised access.</li> <li>● Children will be given rules and safety advice about dangers of fire prior to visiting the fire.</li> <li>● First aiders and first aid box will be available.</li> <li>● Fire proof gloves within easy reach.</li> </ul>                                  | JD to organise staff.  |
| Fire out of control   | As above and damage to area. | all     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As above</li> <li>● Fire will be in a pit surrounded by stones to prevent the fire escaping the area.</li> <li>● Fire area will be away from buildings.</li> <li>● The fire will not be under low overhanging trees which may catch alight.</li> <li>● A good supply of water will be available to put out flames and dampen heat.</li> <li>● A fire blanket will be available to wrap around person who may be alight.</li> </ul> | JD to check site, all staff responsible for fire control.                            |
| Falls into fire       | Burning to skin & clothes    | All     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As above</li> <li>● Children have a safety briefing before entering the fire pit area.</li> <li>● No walking between the seats and fire is allowed.</li> <li>● When cooking etc. everyone at fire should be on one knee to remain stable.</li> <li>● Maximum of 4 people at fire (inc. adults).</li> </ul>   | JD to give safety briefing, all staff check rules are followed.                      |
| Smoke                 | Inhalation, irritation       | All     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The position of the fire will be away from buildings.</li> <li>● The wind direction will be constantly assessed and children advised to move safely out of smoke direction.</li> <li>● Dry suitable wood used to prevent excess smoke.</li> </ul>  | JD to advise staff and children about wood use, fire position on site to be suitable |
| Heat from hot embers. | Burning to skin & clothes    | All     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When the fire activity is finished the embers will be dampened and cooled with water and spread out.</li> </ul>  | JD   |