



## RISK ASSESSMENT – Bowsaw



**Low risk** – a minor injury e.g. scratch or bruise

**Medium risk** – significant loss/damage or injury such as broken bones (requires hospital trip)

**High risk** – extensive loss, multiple injuries or death

|                    |                           |              |              |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Location/Activity: | Stoneydelph Forest School | Date:        | January 2025 |
| FS Leader:         | Miss Sarah Kidner         | Review date: | January 2026 |

| Hazard                | Who is at risk?  | Risk                                                      | Potential level of risk: | Control measures and who is responsible for actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Level of risk after control | Risk benefit                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Correct use of Bowsaw | Adults/ children | Cuts, lacerations, grazes and abrasions                   | <b>High</b>              | Tool checked to be in good working order by FSL before use<br>Check area before using the Bowsaw<br>Clear the area of any debris that can cause a slip, trip or fall.<br>FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m<br>Ratio - adult to child 1:1<br>Wear a glove on non-tool hand<br>Use the Bowsaw for cutting wood bigger than a 10p piece<br>For cutting dry green wood like willow or hazel. | <b>Medium</b>               | Learners will understand the correct purpose and method on how to safely use and handle the Bowsaw.<br>Managing and assessing their own and others risks and to make safer choices.               |
| Handling Bowsaw       | Adults/ children | Cuts, lacerations, and abrasions                          | <b>High</b>              | FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m<br>Ratio - adult to child 1:1<br>Qualified First aider and fully stocked first aid kit.<br>Don't touch the blade always hold the handle.<br>Wear a glove on non-tool hand                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Medium</b>               | Learners will have the opportunity to select, collect and return their own tool in the correct way. This will give them a deeper sense of ownership over their activity and the safety and risks. |
| Carrying Bowsaw       | Adults/ children | Slip, trips and falls<br>Cuts, lacerations, and abrasions | <b>High</b>              | FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m<br>One hand holding the back of the Bowsaw and down by your side.<br>Blade cover must be on.<br>No running while carrying the Bowsaw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Medium</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                             |                  |                                          |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Passing Bowsaw              | Adults/ children | Cuts, lacerations, and abrasions         | High | FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m<br>Passing Bowsaw with one hand on the back and turned so the handle is facing the learner/FSL and blade pointing down.                                                                                                                                      | Medium | Learners will be aware of their surroundings giving them the responsibility of maintaining and preserving their Forest School area. |
| Cleaning and Storing Bowsaw | FSL              | Cuts, lacerations, abrasions and bruises | High | FSL to collect Bowsaw<br>Clean and place it into a secure tool bag.<br>Store bag into a secure shed/container.<br>Cleaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold Bowsaw away from body</li> <li>• Brush blade (Small brush e.g. tooth brush)</li> <li>• Spray with WD40 along the blade</li> </ul> | Medium | Learners will develop their gross motor skills.                                                                                     |

|                         | Signature | Date |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| Forest School leader    |           |      |
| Head Teacher            |           |      |
| Forest School Assistant |           |      |