



## RISK ASSESSMENT – Knives



**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 Knives | Adults/ children | Cuts, punctures, lacerations, bruises                      | <b>Medium</b>            | Tool checked to be in good working order by FSL before use<br>Check area before using the knife<br>FSL - Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m<br>Use to whittle wood<br>Carefully take (or replacing) the knife from (into) the sheath, holding the sheath no further than the middle to avoid the knife slipping. (click will be heard when replaced)<br>Cut away from hand and body - sit on a chair/log with legs together and work to the side of your legs.<br>Place on the floor for FSL to collect. | <b>Low</b>                  | Learners will understand the correct purpose and method on how to safely use and handle a Knife. Managing their own risks and make safer choices for themselves and others. |
| Handling Knives       | Adults/ children | Cuts, punctures, lacerations, bruises                      | <b>Medium</b>            | FSL- Tool talk and safe working distance 1.5m.<br>Ratio - adult to child 1:3 lower at FSL discretion.<br>Qualified First aider and fully stocked first aid kit.<br>FSL to pass knife to each learner with sheath on.<br>Use a glove at FSL discretions (non-tool hand).<br>Don't touch the blade, always hold the handle.<br>No passing of the knife.                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Low</b>                  | Learners will understand the method for safely and independently removing and packing away a knife.                                                                         |
| Carrying Knives       | FSL              | slips, trips, falls, cuts, punctures, lacerations, bruises | <b>High</b>              | Knives will <b>ONLY</b> be carried by the FSL in a secure container.<br>The blade will need to be covered by the sheath.<br>FSL to count in and out the knives<br>Stored correctly in a secure container.<br>Be aware of surrounding to avoid any slip, trips or falls                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Medium</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| Cleaning,<br>Storing,<br>sharpening<br>Knives | FSL | Cuts,<br>punctures,<br>lacerations,<br>amputations<br>bruises | <b>High</b> | <p>FSL to collect the knives<br/>Inspect for wear and tear.<br/>Check the sheaths are on correctly.<br/>Store Knives into a secure tool container.<br/>Store bag into a secure shed/container.<br/>Cleaning/sharpening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lay knife flat (blade away) gently push along the strop (after every session)</li> <li>• Wet the wet stone, place on table/bench on a cloth</li> <li>• Place a side at a time on the wet stone, tilting the blade slightly.</li> <li>• Fingers on the top edge away from shoulder</li> <li>• Push along the wet stone (away from your body)</li> <li>• Repeat on the other side making sure the blade is even</li> </ul> | <b>Medium</b> | <p>Use of the knife will enable the learners to produce woodland crafts.</p> <p>Learners will develop their fine motor skills.</p> |
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|                         | Signature | Date |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| Forest School leader    |           |      |
| Head Teacher            |           |      |
| Forest School Assistant |           |      |