

Forest School Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Statement

This document describes the impact of the operation of a Forest School provision in the physical environment at Branksome Heath Junior School. It describes what is in place to mitigate any negative effects. The statement considers land, water, air, structures, living organisms and the environmental values of the Federation.

Description: Branksome Heath Junior School woodland is located within the school grounds. The woodland edges the perimeter of the school playing field, is enclosed by a perimeter fence and is not accessible from anyone outside of the school.

Grid Reference: 50°44'08.8"N 1°56'39.3"W

Size: 500ft x 365ft / 152m x 111m

Flora: Trees within the woodland are primarily broadleaved and the woodland consist of Oaks, Sycamore, Lime, Maple, Birch, Holly, Pine, Ferns, Sting Nettles, Rhododendron

Fauna: There is badger sett on site, evidence of foxes, birds and insects.

Abiotic Elements: There is no running water near the site. The soil is mainly dense, dark, mud like quality soil. There are no protruding rocks.



Activity	Aspect	Impact	Mitigation
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing wood • Siting the fire • Where to do it • Extinguishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using wood from our woodland would destroy habitats and diminish our supplies. • Lighting a fire on the ground will damage the soil and change the way it behaves. Risk of setting woodland on fire. • Soil compaction from regular use. • Fire can travel underground to roots even after extinguished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a sustainable source for buying in wood, rather than using the woodlands resources • All fires should be lit in the fire pit, or on trays and not in or on the ground. • Designate a fixed location for fires, leaving other areas free to grow as normal. • Ensure that all fires are fully extinguished before leaving the site
Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste may attract animals to the site or increase the numbers of certain species, leading to adverse changes in biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure all left over food goes back to school and is placed in the bin
Tree Climbing and Shelter Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tampering with trees by climbing/ tying things on etc • Where to do it • Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to plants that are more sensitive to losing leaves or flowers. Damage to trees that aren't as strong as others. • Soil compaction from regular use • Breaking leaves and sticks off of Flora for building use would deplete resources and could destroy habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict activities to tree that are suitable and can tolerate the activity. • Designate a fixed location for den building, leaving other areas free to grow as normal. • Have a selection of resources available for the children to use each time, rather than creating new ones.
Collecting Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking wood from the woodland for activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead wood is both homes to mini beasts and beds for fungi so removing too much would be bad for the habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the frequency and evaluate the amount of dry, dead wood around the woodland before removing any. Collect only the minimum amount needed. Reserve specific areas for deadwood conservation.
Collecting Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using sticks, leaves, flowers etc for activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that only fallen leaves or flowers are collected.

Last Reviewed: 13th December 2018

Responsible for Review: Forest School Leader

Next Review Date: September 19

