**Notes:**

This risk assessment is based on the official UK Government guidance available at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and HSE guidance [www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm) and [www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm) that was current at the time of writing. Official guidance will be regularly reviewed in case the control measures we have implemented need adapting.

The Wood Centre for Innovation has its own risk assessment for the building that the Science Oxford Centre procedures comply with. There is a separate risk assessment for school visits to the Science Oxford Centre as a whole and public visits to the Science Oxford Centre on our website.

We ensure that we are up to date with local case rates and guidance and adapt our practices accordingly. Taking in account the additional steps we are taking to keep our staff and visitors safe; our likelihood rating is 2 or ’possible’. You can find out more about the steps we are taking to make your visit COVID secure on our website at <https://scienceoxford.com/centre/visitor-information/>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Woodland Walk Risk Assessment**  **A guided walk through the woods at the Science Oxford Centre** | | | **Severity** | **Likelihood** | **Risk Rating\*** |
| **Hazard** | **Risk to** | **Control Measures** |
| Getting or spreading Corona Virus | All | * PPE including masks, face shields, gloves, aprons, and hand sanitizer is available to our staff and will be mandatory in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. * Rate of transmission in decreased due to the activity being outside. * All equipment will be cleaned or quarantined for 72 hours between bubbles of participants. * We will do our best to accommodate each school’s individual bubble arrangements. If any workshop is not deliverable given the schools social distancing requirements, they will be advised at the time of booking. | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Slips, trips and falls on uneven or slippery ground | All | * All will be reminded to look carefully where they are going when walking around. * Children to be wearing appropriate footwear. * Behavior will be monitored. * Particular attention to be paid to obstacles at eye height, roots on ground and slippery mud. * Request made that children walk rather than run and take particular care on areas of steep ground. * Ensure first aider and first aid kit are present. * Where steps exist, there are handrails for support. * A number of routes are available, and one can be selected to provide easier access as required. | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Medical conditions of individuals in group, e.g.: allergies, asthma | All | * Class teacher to make Science Oxford aware of any conditions prior to visit and will carry appropriate medication and knowledge of treatment. | 3 | 1 | **3** |
| Drowning in open water | All | * All to be made aware of areas of deep water. * Children to always be supervised, with a minimum ratio of 1 adult: 8 children. | 5 | 1 | **5** |
| Invertebrate Stings/bites | All | * Children will be advised of stinging and biting plants/animals. * Children will always be supervised by adults. * Advice provided on the way to capture and release animals safely. * Be aware of any allergies and medical requirements which are requested from the school prior to visit. | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Contact with potentially harmful plants and fungi | All | * Children will be told not to touch any hazardous plants and not to eat/drink anything whilst in the woods. * Hands to be washed with soap after the activity and before eating. | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Hypothermia/  Sunstroke | All | * Advice to be provided on appropriate measures in extreme weather. * Children are to be advised to keep hydrated, wear sunscreen and appropriate clothing as the weather dictates. | 2 | 1 | **2** |
| Minor injuries from branches | All | * The site will be checked to remove hazards at eye level. * Children will be told not to run when in the woodlands. * First aid trained members of staff equipped with first aid kits to be present. * Mobile phones to be kept for emergency contact. | 2 | 1 | **2** |
| Soil borne diseases | All | * Children to be advised not to get soil in mouth or eyes. * Nothing to be eaten/drunk during the activity. * Hands to be washed with soap after the activity and before eating. | 1 | 1 | **1** |
| Water borne Disease | All | * Children to be advised of the danger of waterborne disease such as leptospirosis * Children to be advised not to get water in/on their mucous membranes * Children to be advised to wash their hands with soap after any pond dipping activities. | 2 | 1 | **2** |
| Cuts scrapes and abrasions | All | * Advice to be provided to look at things before touching, namely for thorns, stings or splinters from plants and structures. * First aid trained members of staff equipped with first aid kits to be present. | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Injury from falling objects in storms | All | * Weather forecast to be consulted ahead of visit. * Access to the woodlands will be denied where average wind speeds of 25 mph + are forecast. * A careful check of the site will be undertaken after a storm to ensure no branches have been dislodged or are hazardous. * The site undergoes biennial tree safety surveys to check for potential problems and works are undertaken where advised. | 5 | 1 | **5** |
| Lost Child | **Children** | * Children will be advised of the risk of getting lost. * Close supervision ratios (Adult 1:8 children) to be maintained. * Registers to be taken at beginning and end of activity. * Children to be told never to go out of a clean line of site to the activity leader. * If a child is lost or reported lost, they should follow the Lost child protocol.   Lost child protocol:  A lost child should stand still and shout “1,2,3 I’m over here” and repeat until found.  The rest of the group should stay with one adult while the other adults spread out shouting “1,2,3 Where are you” repeatedly until the missing child is located.  The child should then be led back to the rest of the group and adults be made aware by mobile phone. | 2 | 1 | **2** |