

Beaufront First School EYFS Risk-Benefit Analysis Form

Beaufront First School Risk Assessment - Fire Pit Risk Assessment 2023 edit

Subject of risk assessment	Fire pit and cooking on fires		
Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used	<p>Lighting, maintaining and putting out of small, contained fires. All our fires are contained – that is in some form of (purpose built or re-purposed) container or fireplace. Appropriate tools are used for lighting and using the fire and the equipment is checked before and after each use for signs of damage and replaced accordingly.</p> <p>Cooking of simple snacks such as toast, marshmallows, popcorn parcels.</p> <p>This is undertaken with adult and child groups, in school grounds within a designated space complete with seating for the children and adults at least 2 metres from the fire itself. Children are taught how to approach the seating area and how to behave when in the fire pit area.</p> <p>School children, staff and volunteers/ students are engaged with all aspects of the fire, from collection of tinder and fuel, to preparation, ignition, maintaining and putting out of fire. School staff and volunteers/ students are engaged with all aspects of the food cooking, from preparation to heating/cooking, serving and eating. Adults are responsible for maintaining the fire and the distance from the fire to the seating area at all times.</p>		
Type of assessment (if play design process)	Designer <input type="checkbox"/>	Provider <input type="checkbox"/>	Post Installation Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/>
Job title and name of person making assessment	Gemma Boucetla	Signature of person making assessment	
Dates of Assessment	28 Feb 2023 for 2nd March 2023 onwards	Review Date	Before each use/ following changes to the area and in light of any new guidelines
Risk Management Statement			
<p>Beaufront First School recognises that all risks cannot be reduced to nil, therefore this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting our staff and clients normal work. For all activities, Beaufront First School staff will actively and systematically assesses risks and put in place control measures and record as required. Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by Beaufront First School staff to be significant will be reported following Beaufront's Health and Safety and First Aid Policies and Procedures.</p>			

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Typical Activity or Feature:	<p>Carrying of resources such as fire pit(s), kindling, logs or branches.</p> <p>Collecting of fuel and tinder (gathering natural materials or from purchased source).</p> <p>Preparation of fuel and tinder by snapping, splitting, chopping and sawing down to smaller sizes.</p> <p>Carrying of sources of ignition such as flint & steel or matches/ lighter.</p> <p>Igniting fire with tinder (natural and imported/purchased), building of fire to size, maintaining of flame, ashes or heat through adding fuel, slowing fire through damping with natural (earth or sand) materials.</p> <p>Putting fire out and clearing up of spent fuel and fire pits and tools.</p> <p>Cooking of the food over hot fire or ashes to be limited to toasting.</p> <p>Eating of the food that has been prepared.</p>
How will participants benefit?	<p>Enjoyment, excitement and gaining outdoor skills.</p> <p>In managing a fire, participants will learn risk management, responsibility and organisation.</p> <p>In using fire as a (cooking) tool, children learn to respect it and use it wisely.</p> <p>Participants will learn simple science lessons (fire triangle) including the suitability of materials to ignite and keep a fire going, how to balance the right amount of oxygen and heat loss.</p> <p>Individuals will also learn about simple food preparation. They will also learn food hygiene basics, in a challenging practical environment.</p> <p>Putting a fire out, clearing up and taking items away will teach environmental responsibility and personal respect.</p> <p>In preparing, cooking and eating simple foods on an open fire groups will connect with food production, and enjoy social time.</p>
Who will be at risk?	<p>Beaufront First School Staff.</p> <p>Adult volunteers/ students.</p> <p>Pupils age 3-9 years</p>
Any local factors that may affect risks or controls	<p>Weather - in the event of windy weather the fire pit will not be used or will be relocated to a sheltered location free from debris or overhanging trees and away from buildings.</p>
Possible hazards and risks	<p>Burns from the sparks or items placed on the fire or recently removed from the fire (e.g. saucepans or sticks).</p> <p>Group member falling into fire.</p> <p>Group member leaning on fire container for any reason, causing it to tip.</p> <p>Some stones are explosive in nature when heated, and flint or similar should not be used as a fire base or exposed to heat.</p> <p>Uncontrollable spread of fire.</p> <p>Food poisoning or illness from poorly prepared food.</p>
Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood	<p>High expectations of behaviour, close adult supervision with no fewer than 2 members of staff/ supervising adults present to ensure excellent group control and suitable rules and activities (i.e. not running around) are the foundation of our fire safety.</p> <p>Any children behaving in such a way as to pose a risk to themselves or others will not access fire pit activities or will be removed from the fire pit area if they fail to comply with the expectations for behaviour during this activity.</p>

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Several members of staff have received Forest School training and many are experienced in using fire pits with children. Peer training will take place regularly in school.

Hair, long clothing or hats should be kept away from flames, especially when tending a fire.

Fires should be in containers, restricting sizes of fire, and allowing stable placing of pans and cooking implements. Careful choice of container in size, stability and overall suitability.

Areas around fires should be clearly and properly marked and restricted as an exclusion area. Seating should be the normal posture around a fire, unless working on or with it, in which case a 'safe position' for working can be adopted, again suitable to the groups. Implements, such as sticks or rocks will be used where appropriate to group to keep further back from fire when cooking or heating.

Fires should always be put out before leaving the site, and sufficient water should be carried or available in the event of having to put a fire out suddenly. Beaufront First School staff should be confident that the fire has not spread to ground, and sand, rocks or logs may be used to space containers off the floor if needed on peaty or rooted soils.

Hot cooking items should be kept within the marked fire area.

A set of gloves (or similar) will be carried with fire resources to facilitate lifting hot items.

Great awareness of atmospheric and environmental conditions, such as dry summer, high winds or peat based soils, and choosing when not to have a fire. Use of sand or paving stone base, rocks, or similar to be considered.

Staff to apply food hygiene controls in line with Food Standards Agency guidance and good practice outdoors. This will include:

- hand and personal hygiene of a good standard;
- clean implements and containers,
- working on mats or tarpaulins below containers or chopping boards to prevent contamination;
- clear working areas with no walking through, covering food before, during and after cooking when not being consumed;
- avoidance of foods that 'spoil' before cooking. This means that we will not cook meats unless dried and preserved,
- ensuring dairy products are fresh and consideration given to preserving them on hot days.
- All foods will be in-date and stored appropriately to prevent spoiling or contamination, both long term and when outside.
- Simple clean up measures to prevent re-use of implements or bowls where needed

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good washing up technique, likely back in a kitchen or using dishwasher. <p>All implements will be managed well, with a limited number available and good storage so that toasting forks and skewers or firelighting items are not left lying around.</p> <p>All Beaufront First School staff leading sessions or courses will hold a relevant emergency first aid qualification (Paediatric First Aid Certificate) and will carry a first aid kit as well as a mobile phone in case of emergency. Burn cream is kept in the fridge on site.</p>
Precedents or comparisons	<p>The Play Safety Forum highlights that fire is a play tool and learning tool, in their publication 'Managing Risk in Play Provision'.</p> <p>Education documentation in the UK highlights fire as a suitable context for learning many things, and there is a great amount of advice and videos on the subject. Beaufront First School has experience of using fire pits safely and competently for many years and all staff using the fire pits are familiar with fire safety practices when using open fires and contained fires within their own lives outside of school.</p>
Judgement	<p>Fire does have some challenges, due to small incidents having potentially unacceptable consequences. However, good group management and vigilance can reduce the likelihood of these risks to an acceptable level. Cooking on an open fire requires good skills and responsibility, and can be a life-long memory and skill.</p> <p>The positive benefits outweigh the serious risks, in light of reduced likelihood. Beaufront First School views the use of fire pits as a measured risk with many benefits and as a valuable enhancement to the curriculum.</p>