



Juniper Hill School Risk Assessment Pond in The Orchard September 2025

<p>Purpose of Risk Assessment We need to make sure all of the staff are aware of the dangers of the pond and we keep the children safe. The pond is situated in The Orchards, in our Forest School area.</p>	<p>People Involved Claire Garnett (Headteacher) Julie Harris (Forest School Lead) Graham Pearce (Caretaker) All members of the Juniper Team Support and maintenance from The Chiltern Rangers</p>
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Theme What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how? (Who is at special risk)	What are you already doing? (Current control measures, including those for people at special risk)	What further action is necessary? (Further control measures)	RISK LEVEL (Low, Medium, High)	Action by whom	Additional Information/ Review Notes.
<p>Slippery / poorly defined pond edges / banks</p> <p>Slips, trips and falls Cuts and abrasions Drowning</p> <p>Inadvertent access Lack of supervision</p> <p>Stings and cuts from vegetation at ponds edge Cuts / stings</p>	<p>Pupils, Young children (under fives), children with special needs, visitors, Trespassers</p>	<p>Edges of the pond clearly visible, no steep or slippery banks Deeper zone positioned away from the edges where access is not possible Pond regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not become obscured A fence / barrier has been built around the pond to prevent access, the gate to</p>	<p>All staff have been informed they must tell the children at the start of every Forest School lesson they aren't to go into the pond area.</p> <p>Graham Pearce has placed additional orange hazard fencing around the sides of the pond, this will stay there until the natural foliage e.g. hazel, brambles grow.</p> <p>The Chiltern Rangers will maintain the pond area, part of the maintenance will involve moving the hazel branches to create natural hedges, and cutting back any nettles.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>Headteacher delivers an annual drowning prevention assembly</p> <p>The staff have been informed the children aren't to go into The Orchard to collect any balls during breaktimes / PE lessons.</p>



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		the pond has a chain lock.	All Forest School staff have been informed, the area around 'Base Camp' is the children's fun area. The area around the pond is the nature reserve area.			
<p>Pond dipping / pond use by pupils</p> <p>Injury from nets</p> <p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>Cuts and abrasions</p>	<p>Pupils, Young children (under fives), children with special needs,</p>		<p>Instructions to children regarding expected behaviour around the pond</p> <p>Good visibility for leaders to supervise and monitor whole area used</p> <p>Only a few children will be allowed to dip at any time.</p> <p>Appropriate clothing for conditions (including hats and suncream where necessary)</p> <p>Ask children to kneel or crouch at the edge of the dipping platform with their nets. Demonstrate as part of the introduction. Assist children with nets at point of kneeling if necessary</p> <p>Demonstrate how to extend net pole rather than extended leaning over</p>	Low	All staff	<p>Our children with PD needs must have 1:1 support for any pond dipping. An individual risk assessment will need to be completed for each PD child before they pond dip.</p>
<p>Hygiene</p> <p>Infection / disease</p> <p>Weils disease</p> <p>Poisoning (blue - green algae)</p>	<p>Pupils, Young children (under fives), children with special needs, Staff / visitors working with the children</p>		<p>Adequate provision for hand washing readily available.</p> <p>Children are to wash their hands back in school as soon as they have finished pond dipping.</p> <p>Do not allow children to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed.</p>	Low	All staff	<p>CLEAPSS have issued a guide on Pond Dipping and Weils Disease.</p>



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			Cuts / abrasions covered with waterproof plaster No eating in the pond area Check the area to remove (hygienically) any cat or dog faeces before children enter the area.			
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Shared with _____

I have read, I have understood and I will follow, Signed _____ Date _____



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Appendix – Assess the Level of Risk

In this risk assessment the level of risk is expressed qualitatively as **Low, Medium, High or Very High**. Underlying these descriptors of risk is a probabilistic model which factors the **likelihood** of an accident or event against the **severity** of harm that may occur. The **risk rating**, calculated as **likelihood x severity**, maps into the qualitative terms used as follows:

		Severity			
		Minor Injury	Reportable Injury	Serious Injury	Critical
Likelihood	Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium
	Possible	Low	Medium	High	High
	Probable	Medium	High	High	Very High

Reportable Injury is an important threshold and refers to UK legislation in this respect, often referred to as **RIDDOR**. A reportable injury or occurrence includes:

- major injuries as defined in RIDDOR,
- accidents that resulted in more than 7 days off work,
- an injury to member of the public, a customer or visitor, or a school pupil or student, that required hospital treatment.

(See <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/edis1.pdf> for more information on RIDDOR).