

Pre use checklist for Forest School Shelters and Rustic Constructions

Becket Primary School

Your new area has been created for the purpose of Forest School sessions delivered or overseen by a Qualified Level 3 Forest School Practitioner **ONLY**. This area may require some ongoing maintenance using skills acquired on the Forest School courses provided by The Bosk Rural Learning Hub or other reputable Training Provider. This document is provided to complement Risk Assessments carried out by the FS lead.

All our natural wood products may vary in shape and colour. splits, and splinters will occur over time and the bark can become loose. In this respect it is a living product to be observed, checked and engaged with. You may choose to treat the wood further with nontoxic water-based treatment, as and when necessary in the same manner you would garden fencing or furniture. We would advise against activities such as filling any gaps, cracks or splits with wood filler as this will detract from the product's natural aesthetic appearance. Feel free to sand any edges that become splinter sites, and wire brush any mould or moss to keep the product usable and clean. As this is a natural product each item is individual and therefore may vary slightly in size.

These items are cut from unprocessed wood so they may be speckled in appearance or may have knots, saw marks within the wood. The wood is 'green wood', simply cut and as such will expand and contract with the weather, splits will occur and bark will fall off as the product naturally weathers and reacts to sunshine and the rain.

Below is a guided checklist that can be used alongside your own area risk assessments that focuses on areas of attention.

Date:

Hazards observed	Who affected? All = in attendance on session	Existing control measures (if any)	Overall risk rating Low, Medium, High	Further action required (high, Medium, low)	Person responsible (Instructor/Trainer)
Falling branches.	All	Thorough inspection of site carried out annually. General visual check carried out after gales and at beginning of each session.	High	Professional Annual Commission recommended by competent professional	

Stumble on uneven ground and undergrowth.	All	Children informed not to run especially through undergrowth. And around rustic wood structured area.	Medium	Children reminded when necessary.	
Shelter construction collapse.	All	Tarp covered framed shelter visual check by FS session lead. Small light weight items made by children can be hung from the roof struts. Children MUST NOT PULL or HANG from the frame or shelter legs . This is a non-permanent structure and should be treated as if a tent . You will experience some movement within the frame structure this is to be expected.	Low/Medium	Visual check of roof bolts, leg bolts and frame integrity. Bolts may stick out over time. Tarp may come loose in strong winds but can be easily retethered. Tarps will damage over time but are affordably replaceable.	

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

