

School Risk Assessment Barnet Environment Centre

Risk	To whom	Risk severity	Risk likelihood	Risk Management
School visits				
Arriving at the Centre See Health and Safety Access Map	All users	High	Low	• Beware of traffic entering and leaving the Noah's Ark Hospice on the left-hand side of Byng Road • beware of emergency and delivery vehicles entering and leaving Noah's Ark through the bottom gate on the left-hand side on Byng Road just before the E-Centre • there is a pavement past the Noah's Ark Hospice on the right-hand side. Please do not walk in the road and keep one adult behind the group and one in front of the group. Adults should wear Hi-Viz safety jackets. • be aware of parked cars outside the Noah's Ark Hospice.
Leaving the E-Centre	All users	High	Medium	• when leaving the centre take extra care approaching the road through parked cars. Look before you step out. Teachers and carers should keep children on the Centre premises until the road is clear and safe to cross. One adult should stand at either side of the entrance to stop any traffic.
Slips, trips, falls Spillages Wet footwear Uneven paths Obstacles on paths (cuts, scratches, bruising, broken limbs)	All users	Low	Medium	• all sessions start with a health and safety induction • spillages and muddy floors to be cleared immediately and wet floor safety signs erected • paths are checked for obstacles before each activity using grounds by centre staff • publicity advises visitors to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather and the terrain • school to provide first aid kits. Centre staff to carry personal first aid kit
Allergies to plants, insect bites and stings, hayfever	All users	High	Low	• yew and spindle trees on site are not used for activities • no berry picking allowed from any trees or bushes, • schools advised to bring all relevant medication for children and adults with allergies

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				schools advised of the risk of hayfever
Insect bites and stings Nettles and brambles				- schools and centre staff advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear, e.g. no sandals, and to consider using insect repellent if sensitive to bites - children advised what nettles and brambles look like and how to avoid touching them
Sun burn/heat stroke	All users	Medium	Low	- all users advised to use sun cream, wear hats, to refrain from wearing sleeveless tops - all users advised to bring water in refillable bottles
Moving logs to look at minibeasts	All users	Medium	Low	- all users advised to roll logs away from feet to avoid their toes - all users advised to make sure no one is standing in front of the log being turned
Ratio of adults to children must be: Early years 1:3 Infants 1:4/5 Juniors 1:5 excluding one-to-one support staff	Teachers, parents and children			- all groups will be given a health and safety induction at the start of the session - school supplied with information explaining what is required of accompanying adults prior to the visit - ratios must EXCLUDE those adults who are designated one-to-one support
Pond dipping (<i>slips and falls</i>)	All users	High	Low	- close supervision is provided by teachers, TAs and parents accompanying the group, overseen by experienced staff - good visibility for leaders to supervise/monitor whole area used - the users are briefed regarding behaviour/conduct required - the users are warned to step slowly/carefully and to beware of slipping on wet banks or on the dipping platform - the users are told to sit on their heels at all times while dipping to prevent falling in

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				• users who are not dipping are required to stay in a designated zone until it is their turn, accompanying adults to ensure they stay in the zone • the section of water used is suitable and presents no significant risks • all users to wear appropriate footwear
Pond dipping (<i>use of nets</i>)	All users	Low	Low	• the group is advised to take care in handling fishing nets and poles with due regard to others (especially eyes) • maximum of 12 children dipping in each pond • all children supervised at all times while near the ponds
Pond activities Polluted water (<i>e.g. Weil's disease</i>)	All users	High	Low	• there are no obvious sources of pollution present • users do not drink the water • users wash/clean hands after the activity and especially before eating/drinking • cuts and wounds are protected by waterproof plasters which should be organised by the school prior to arrival • where hands have multiple abrasions users to wear gloves • users advised not to put hands in mouth, eyes ears or nose while pond dipping
Using magnifiers	All users	High	Low	• users will be advised of procedures for using magnifiers (Procedure for using magnifiers with EYFS and Primary aged school children September 2017) when they are given out • accompanying adults will be responsible for ensuring children adhere to the procedures • users advised not to use the sun to create a beam of light that can burn the skin and eyes and start fires • users advised not to walk along looking through the magnifier • users advised not to put the magnifiers or their straps in their mouths

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				• users advised not to swing the magnifiers around
Craft activities: Painting, collage, clay work, papier-mache, model making, making bird cake.	Children and their parents and carers	Low	Low	• staff are experienced and competent in their subjects. • groups are always supervised. • materials and equipment are chosen to minimise harm. • check attendees for nut and seed allergies prior to taking part in bird cake activities • school to notify Education manager of any allergies and health issues prior to visiting the reserve

Nearest A&E	Access in emergencies	Emergency contact details	Risk Assessment to be reviewed
Barnet General Hospital Wellhouse Lane Barnet Herts EN5 3DJ 0845 111 4000	Barnet Countryside Centre Byng Road Barnet Herts EN5 4NP Entrance for emergency services through gate on Byng Road at front of site. Site staff to ensure access is available once emergency services have been called and to wait for ambulance at the gate.	Health and Safety Officer: Geoff Lee – 0208 445 8581 hilgeoff@yahoo.co.uk Chair: Bernard Johnson - 0208 440 7605 07961 928675 mr_bernardjohnson@hotmail.co.uk Volunteer Manager: Elizabeth Pearson Lizm.pearson22@gmail.com	When changes to the reserve are made, new legislation implemented or 1/11/2024

This School visit Risk Assessment is being used as the basis for all relevant activities.

This risk assessment was carried out by:

Name: Robyn Stern- Environmental Education Manager

Date: 17/11/2025

November 2023

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Barnet Environment Centre is situated at the Noah's Ark Childrens Hospice E-Centre

