

**Children's House & Rachel Keeling Nursery School, where the child comes first**

**Risk Assessment: Working in the Garden** Autumn 2024 to be reviewed Autumn 2025

Hazard	Risk	Who is at risk	Level of risk	Control Measures
<b>Large climbing apparatus</b>	Children falling and hurting themselves	Children	Low to medium	When children are introduced to <b>new</b> climbing experiences there is always a member of staff in the area. Additionally, there will always be an adult in the climbing area when it is an adult led learning experience.
<b>Climbing trees</b>	Children falling and hurting themselves	Children	Low to medium	Children are encouraged to tell a member of staff they would like to climb the trees. When children are climbing trees there is a member of staff available. Children are not permitted to climb trees from the tree house.
<b>Pond (RK)</b>	Children falling in and hurting themselves	Children	Low to medium	The pond is raised to minimise risk of tipping into it. The grill is equipped to withstand weight of up to 70kg. Daily checks by premises manager ensure lock is operational. One member of staff working with the children at the pond area when engaged in pond dipping at all times with the grill open. Staff talk to children about safety around open water. Wash hands after pond dipping.
<b>Tree House (RK)</b>	Children falling and hurting themselves.	Children and adults	Low to medium	There is a balustrade around the decking of the tree house. Safety surface established beneath the tree house. Staff to talk to children about what is safe and not; informing children that they do not climb over the tree house onto trees or climb around outside of the tree house fence and ensuring toys are not thrown from a height.
<b>Fireperson's pole (RK)</b>	Children falling and hurting themselves.	Children	Low to medium	Staff to support the children in learning how to use the fire person's pole effectively. Children learn to call an adult when they are using it.
<b>Cycling - see separate risk assessment</b>	Children falling and possibly colliding with others	Children and adults	Low to medium	Staff support children in understanding how to use bikes safely and effectively. Helmets must be worn and securely fitted when using bikes. Daily check by the garden team to ensure the condition of bikes and helmets is good and wear and tear.
<b>Cooking using a campfire</b>	Children burning themselves	Children and adults	Medium to high	A ratio of 1:4 children when <u>cooking</u> . Additional staff are required to work at a minimum of 1:8 (this is a reduced ratio given that children are within the vicinity of a fire). Children are supported to learn about the dangers of fire. Children understand to stay seated on crates/chairs behind the fire square barrier at all times. Staff to have worked alongside another member of experienced staff making campfires before working with children. The following items should be by the fire pit before cooking: bucket of water, bucket of sand ready to cover over fire, fire blanket, fire gloves. <b>Additional staff come out to support when a large group is involved in fire experience.</b>
<b>Dissection</b>	Contamination from flora and fauna being dissected	Children and adults	Low to medium	Controlled group targeted. Everyone involved wears protective gloves, apron and visor. Adults use scalpel. Children understand not to put fingers in their mouths. Wash hands after removal of protective clothing. Liaise with families so they are aware of purpose.
<b>Using spades and shovels</b>	Children hurting themselves or others	Children and adults	Low to medium	When children are introduced to using new garden tools they are taught how to use the tools safely and effectively. There are always a minimum of three members of staff in the garden at any one time. Shoes must be worn.

<b>Heavy Rain/lightning</b>	Children slipping and hurting themselves Children and adults struck by lightning	Children and adults	Low to medium	Children wear waterproof clothes and wellington boots. Staff to talk to children about keeping dry. Talk to children about slippy areas and cordon them off if needed. Children and staff come under the veranda or inside when there is thunder/ lightning.
<b>Unlevelled Ground</b>	Children slipping and hurting themselves	Children and adults	Low to medium	Children are taught how to move safely and effectively throughout the garden. This experience supports children having an understanding of the real world. Staff to monitor and report any changes to the surface.
<b>Leaves</b>	Children slipping and hurting themselves	Children and adults	Low to medium	Premises Manager as appropriate removes leaves. However, the school does also want children to experience leaves, their texture and wetness so they have a comprehensive understanding about nature and being prepared for the real world.
<b>Ice</b>	Children slipping and hurting themselves	Children and adults	Low to medium	Premises Manager inspects the garden every morning, if noted there is ice, salt is placed on icy areas as well as where appropriate areas are sealed off. Staff to talk to children about the properties of ice and what can happen if we run on ice. For particular experiences, ice may be left to explore under adult supervision but this will not usually be underfoot.
<b>Hillock (RK)</b>	Children slipping and hurting themselves.	Children and adults	Low to medium	Children are supported to use the hillock safely. The hillock may be used for cycling, reading and relaxing. Our Childrens' House & Rachel Keeling Values support children being considerate/kind.
<b>Wasps/bees</b>	Children getting stung	Children and adults	Medium to high	Staff to monitor sightings of larger than average numbers of wasps/bees. If a nest is found, children and staff come inside and pest control (LBTH) is called immediately. Garden to remain out of bounds until after pest control has dealt with the nest. First aider to treat any child stung by wasp or bee immediately- multiple stings seek medical help
<b>Chairs and tables stored</b>	Furniture falling and injuring	Children and adults	Low to medium	Chairs to be stacked to a maximum of 6 high. Tables to be stacked to a maximum of 4 high.

**Additional Factors in place:** Three members of staff in the garden, unless numbers of children are very low. Similarly when there are substantially more children in the garden additional staff will go out to support the garden. Staff deployment: spread across the garden. This is continuously monitored.

All staff who are scheduled in the garden check the area to ensure it is safe for children: for example removing any dangerous items, noting if there are any additional risks such as ice, broken glass, splinters; making sure when large climbing apparatus is set up, it is secure and dried when wet.

General Boundaries that promote high quality learning and safety: Children's House & Rachel Keeling Values.

All accidents which require treatment are reported to parents/carers. Serious accidents are informed to the SLT. A review of risk assessments in light of accidents to take place.

If a child was to fall into the pond; the following actions would be undertaken:

- A member of staff to go immediately to the pond and ensure the child is safely out of the pond
- Other children are directed away from the area
- Child re-assured and dry clothes put on
- SLT informed
- First aid person to examine the child
- Parent/carers to be informed

If a child was to hurt her/himself on an open fire; the following actions would be undertaken:

- Running cold water continuously over area that is injured
- Emergency services contacted
- SLT informed
- One member of staff to remain with the child

- Parent/carer informed
- Staff clear the fire area and attend to other children. Staff from inside to support the garden team