

**Risk Assessment Form – Pond on School Ground and Safety**

<b><u>Venue:</u></b> St Luke's C of E Primary Forest School Area	<b><u>Activity/Event:</u></b> Pond dipping or any pond related activities	<b><u>Persons Involved:</u></b>
<b><u>Assessment Completed by:</u></b>	<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Manager Approval:</u></b>

Hazard/ Risk	Who is at risk?	How can the hazard cause harm?	Normal Control Measures	Are normal control measures in place?	
				Y	N
<p><b>Slippery / poorly defined pond edges / banks</b></p> <p><b>Pond location</b></p> <p><b>Inadvertent access</b></p> <p><b>Lack of supervision</b></p>	<p>Pupils</p> <p>Young children (under fives), children with special needs, visitors</p> <p>Trespassers</p>	<p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>Cuts and abrasions</p> <p>Drowning</p> <p>Injuries / access occur unnoticed</p>	<p><b>Design:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edges of the pond clearly visible, no steep or slippery banks.</li> <li>• Deeper zone positioned away from the edges where access is not possible.</li> <li>• The depth should be kept as shallow as possible Maximum depth of pond; infants 60 cm, junior 75cm and secondary 100cm;</li> <li>• Pond regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not become obscured and that the area around the pond does not deteriorate.</li> <li>• If possible the pond should be located so that it is visible from nearby school buildings.</li> <li>• Slip / tripping hazards eliminated from the surrounding area.</li> </ul>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edges that are open for access for pond dipping should be gently sloping, or flat and well defined.</li> <li>• For smaller ponds, steel, rigid mesh fixed over the top of the pond. (must be firmly secured and regularly checked for signs of deterioration).</li> <li>• Appropriate level of supervision in place taking into account age of pupils and any special needs.</li> <li>• Appropriate warning signs posted if applicable ( 'No unaccompanied children', 'deep water' etc).</li> <li>• Ponds in primary schools fenced to (1.1m high min) with lockable gate to deter unsupervised entry.</li> </ul>	Y Y* Y Y* Y	
<b>Pond dipping / pond use by pupils</b>		Injury from nets Slips, trips and falls Cuts and abrasions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruction to children regarding use and behaviour.</li> <li>• Good visibility for leaders to supervise and monitor whole area used.</li> <li>• Avoid use of glass.</li> <li>• Young people dipping are spaced well apart.</li> <li>• Appropriate clothing for conditions (including hats and suncream where necessary).</li> </ul>	Y Y Y Y	
<b>Hygiene</b>		Infection / disease Weils disease Poisoning (blue-green algae)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate provision for hand washing readily available.</li> <li>• Provide paper towels rather than communal hand towels.</li> <li>• Do not allow children to touch any part of their face with their hands before hands are washed.</li> </ul>	Y Y Y	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Younger pupils should be seen to wash their hands.</li> <li>• Cuts / abrasions covered with waterproof plaster.</li> <li>• No eating in the pond area.</li> <li>• Prevent access to the area by cats/dogs, check always made of the area to remove (hygienically) any faeces before children enter the area.</li> <li>• Any algal scum should be removed, avoiding skin contact. Pupils should be supervised carefully so that they have no opportunity to eat any parts of the plants growing in or around the pond.</li> </ul>	Y Y Y Y Y	
Follow CLEAPSS guide L221 Developing and Using Environmental Areas in School Grounds  CLEAPSS have also issued a guidance on Pond Dipping and Weils Disease					
DATE OF REVIEW: Record actual date of review	COMMENTS: Record any comments reviewer wishes to make. Including recommendations for future reviews.				
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RESIDUAL RISK RATING	ACTION REQUIRED
<b>VERY HIGH (VH)</b> Strong likelihood of fatality / serious injury. occurring	The activity must not take place at all. You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating.
<b>HIGH (H)</b> Possibility of fatality/serious injury occurring.	You must identify further controls to reduce the risk rating. Seek further advice.
<b>MEDIUM (M)</b> Possibility of significant injury or over 3 day absence occurring	If it is not possible to lower risk further, you will need to consider the risk against the benefit. Monitor risk assessments at this rating more regularly and closely.
<b>LOW (L)</b> Possibility of minor injury only	No further action required.

\*Awaiting metal cover and signage.