



## WORKING WITH TOOLS POLICY

Last reviewed:	January 2026
Next review due:	January 2027

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff and children are learning to safely use appropriate tools as an important part of a child's development. This skill enables a child to fashion instruments for both practical usefulness and pleasure. Tools help children learn how natural materials feel and change and when used safely, help to develop coordination, dexterity and ingenuity.

Only level 3 qualified forest school leaders or practitioners who have experience and competence using tools, will train children to use tools and will be responsible for the care and safety of all individuals when using tools, including implementing the safe tool use policy and procedure.

At The Little Firefly Forest School, we will encourage the use of the following tools:

- Hand drill
- Palm drill
- Small hacksaws
- Bowsaws
- Loppers
- Bill hooks
- Screwdrivers
- Hammers/mallets.

Risks BEFORE control measure put in place	Control measures	Risks AFTER control measure put in place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts to hand when taking guard off saw: <b>High</b></li> <li>• Cuts to hand if saw was to jump: <b>High</b></li> <li>• Directly grabbing or touching a blade: <b>High</b></li> <li>• Stab injury from point of peeler: <b>High</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 3 forest school leader/competent person to deliver activity</li> <li>• Tool area to be clearly defined</li> <li>• Tool talk to be carried out before activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts to hand when taking guard off saw: <b>Low</b></li> <li>• Cuts to hand if saw was to jump: <b>Low</b></li> <li>• Directly grabbing or touching a blade: <b>Low</b></li> <li>• Stab injury from point of peeler: <b>Low</b></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tripping injury from cut wood lying on ground <b>Medium</b></li> <li>• Impact injury from falling branches when coppicing <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective gloves are to be worn on the helping hand where appropriate</li> <li>• Safety glasses to be worn</li> <li>• Guards and covers to be replaced immediately after use.</li> <li>• All children to be supervised when using tools</li> <li>• Limited number of children using tools at any one time</li> <li>• Tools to be checked regularly and maintained to ensure they are in good working order.</li> <li>• When not in use, tools must be stored in a locked container, out of reach of children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tripping injury from cut wood lying on ground <b>Low</b></li> <li>• Impact injury from falling branches when coppicing <b>Low</b></li> </ul>
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## Maintenance

Tools to be checked, cleaned, sharpened

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Policies, procedures and risk assessments referred to in this document:

- Risk assessment policy

External references:

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