

Tisbury Parish Council – Children’s Community Garden Risk Assessment

Name of risk assessor	Bev Cornish	Date of Risk Assessment	01.09.2023	Risk Assessment review date	March 2024
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RISK/HAZARD DESCRIPTION	WHO IS AT RISK?	LEVEL OF RISK	EXISTING CONTROLS KEY POINTS	FURTHER ACTIONS IF REQUIRED	RISK OWNER
Covid-19 - Close contact from infected persons	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor activity Ask people infected to stay away 	Consider latest information from HM Government/NHS	CCGG
Design - Access and pathway design	Members of the public Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routes between growing areas to be maintained as grass Weeds across chain fencing to be removed 	Close paths if too slippery and revise activities to minimise risk of slipping. For children, no running to, from and within the area. Wear appropriate footwear	CCGG
Damage/Vandalism - Fire/broken wood etc.	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gate to be locked when garden not in use. Fencing erected to keep people out when closed Parish Council to be alerted to any damage sustained 		CCGG
Equipment - Injury due to weight / Accident from use/misuse	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small watering cans No power tools on site or to be used while site is open Child friendly equipment 	Power tools to be taken to site when needed and otherwise stored at PC or in Youth Hub Child friendly equipment purchase	CCGG

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Tools Injury, trips and falls. Cuts and getting hit.	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools correctly maintained to be safe to use. Children to use tools only when instructed to do so. • At start of each session tool safety to be embedded. Training to be given for all sharp tools to be used e.g. loppers, secateurs etc. • Garden forks and spades to be used with care, particularly avoiding feet of user and those around. These should not be used with force as levers when digging. • Rakes must be stored with teeth facing downwards or leaned against a wall with teeth facing in towards wall. • Great care should be taken when using tools in the wet and their use may need to be suspended. • Volunteers should take care when filling, pushing and tipping wheelbarrows. These should not be too heavily laden for the user to manage easily. When left full they should be well balanced so they do not easily tip over. • All tools counted 'out' and 'in'. 'Tool stop' point to be clearly identified and all tools to be returned here when not in use during a session. • Appropriate type and size of tools to be selected for use by children. • Ensure adequate working space for people when they are working around garden beds 		CCGG

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Plant supports Damage to the eye	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People to be made aware of hazard and to take care when leaning over beds • Cane toppers to be used where cane height less than 1.8m high 		CCGG
Tetanus Bacteria - Soil, bugs & insects Toxoplasmosis Skin Irritation Soil blowing into eyes	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise Parents of need for Tetanus vaccination ¹ • Check garden before session and remove any animal mess whilst wearing gloves. Bury/dispose of mess away from the garden and wash trowel and hands afterwards. • Gloves to be worn when working with the soil. • Proprietary compost e.g. for seed sowing, can be handled without gloves but hands must be washed after the session. If someone has skin irritations e.g. eczema, or cuts/abrasions, or is likely to have a suppressed immune system, then disposable gloves should be worn. • Bags of compost or potting media should be opened with the head away from the opening as far as practically possible. • Moisten dry compost/potting media before using. • Avoid storing compost/potting media in greenhouses or other warm places. • Avoid using loose compost and digging/raking soil in dry and windy conditions. 	Leaflet distributed	CCGG
Thorny Plants - Pricks, scratches, cuts	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid box on site • Gloves required 		CCGG

¹ Leaflet available from <https://www.capt.org.uk/shop/how-safe-is-your-child-in-the-garden>

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Ingestion of plant parts causing discomfort or sickness.	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind children that plants can be poisonous – do not put in your mouth; wash hands after being in the Garden and before eating 		CCGG
Disease carrying bugs - Bites & stings	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid box on site Gloves required 		CCGG
Stings and allergic reactions including anaphylaxis, hayfever or rash	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid kit on site. See advice above relating to allergies and allergic reactions Any allergies to be notified to lead garden volunteer on site Ensure that children bring any appropriate medication for their allergies – which will not be available on site. 		CCGG
Chemicals - Inhalation leading to breathing difficulties & damage to environment	Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All products to be organic NOT to be used when garden is open to public 		CCGG
Sun and heat extended exposure – sunburn and heatstroke Wet – getting too cold and hypothermia	Members of the public Employees Volunteers Contractors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise children and any accompanying adults to dress accordingly Children should wear sun hats and apply sun cream before they attend or bring their own sun cream In wet weather children should bring waterproof coats/clothing. Breaks advised Volunteers and children to bring drinking water to site. 	Check weather forecast and consider cancelling if adverse forecast	CCGG
Physical injuries - From lifting or repetitive motion	Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep equipment light Avoid repetitive activities over a long time 	Equipment sourcing (MJ) Supervise activities (MJ) March 2022	CCGG
Loud Noise From power tools	Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to be used when open Operatives to wear ear muffs 		CCGG

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Child Protection Physical, psychological or sexual abuse & Abduction	Members of the public	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS Supervisor on site when open and required to open shed • Open views to children's activity 		CCGG
Greenhouse access	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child allowed access to the greenhouse without an adult • The greenhouse should not be used as a shed or weather shelter • Check the area before every session for broken equipment and panelling • Never store water tanks in a greenhouse for health and safety reasons 		CCGG
Composting Airborne particles Flies, Vermin Lifting/ Turning	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid turning compost heaps when garden is open • Adults only to turn heaps when others are not present • Adults must wear face mask and gloves to do this. • Avoid putting cooked food into compost heaps 		CCGG
Water Slips, trips, falls	Members of the public Volunteers	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children shown how to correctly water plants to avoid soaking pathways. Hose pipes should be coiled/ rolled up after use and not left lying out where they could become a trip hazard. • Working procedures should be designed to keep water spillages and run off to a minimum 		CCGG

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Water Butts, Hoses Drinking Washing Hands Water borne bugs/ infections Drowning	Members of the public Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water butts must have closed lids and should be firmly secured on a stable surface • Children must not wash their hands or wash garden produce to eat with water from the butts. • When using water from the butts for watering then people must wash their hands afterwards • Water butts should be emptied and scrubbed out once a year. This job should be carried out by an adult with gloves and face mask. • Water butts to be kept in cool position as far as practically possible. • Empty water out of full hoses after use. (NB Full hoses left in sun or warm conditions may breed micro-organisms such as Legionella) 		CCGG
Unable to demonstrate compliance to regulations and legislation	Volunteers	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must hold a valid Enhanced DBS Certificate • Must have signed the Council's Volunteer Agreement • Must adhere to the Council's Volunteer Policy • Must adhere to the Council's Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Data Protection Policies 		TPC