

LMPC Policy Statement for its play areas

1. TO PROVIDE, WHERE POSSIBLE, CONVENTIONAL PLAY AREAS, TO ENABLE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY.
2. TO ENSURE THE PARISH PLAY FACILITY COMPLIES WITH ALL THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH STANDARDS. To minimise the risk of accidents and help provide a safer environment for children to enjoy play.
3. MONITOR, ASSESS AND REVIEW DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND LAYOUT OF THE PLAY AREA AND INVESTIGATE AND TAKE NOTE OF NEW RESEARCH INTO SAFETY STANDARDS. To be aware that accidents in playgrounds arise from many causes: * inappropriate design and layout of playgrounds * unsuitably designed play equipment * incorrectly installed equipment * inadequately maintained equipment * lack of age - and ability - related equipment * lack of adult supervision * aggressive or dangerous behaviour of children * misuse of equipment * unsuitable clothing worn by children and modify and update policies as new information, legislation and standards dictate.
4. CARRY OUT ROUTINE WEEKLY AND THREE MONTHLY RECORDED INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAY AREA IN ADDITION TO A FULLY DOCUMENTED CERTIFIED 12 MONTHLY INSPECTION BY RoSPA. Sites should be visually inspected weekly for superficial defects and faults to equipment in addition to general cleanliness and removal of dangerous objects. Three monthly inspections should be more 'in depth' and cover fences, seats, gates, litter bins in addition to the play equipment and impact absorbing surfaces.
5. MONITOR SAFETY BY KEEPING A CENTRAL RECORD OF ALL REPORTED INJURIES AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS ON ITS PLAYGROUNDS. The information being used when updating existing play areas and planning new ones.
6. POLICY STATEMENT TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACCESS TO, AND EXPERIENCE OF, ENVIRONMENTAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES WHEN DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS RELATING TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
7. TO FORMULATE A FORWARD PLAN AND UPDATE AND AMEND AS NECESSARY AND AS ANY NEW LEGISLATION OR STANDARDS ARE INTRODUCED
This will take account of all information gained from consultations with the local community and any accidents/incidents reported.
8. TO ENDEAVOUR TO INTRODUCE MORE PLAY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. Disabled children are children with extra needs and they should have access to a play environment which allows them the same opportunities for recreation and
9. TO ENDEAVOUR TO MAKE PARENTS AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN AT PLAY AND SEEK THEIR HELP TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY CAN PLAY.
For the following reasons: - * parental/adult supervision in play grounds * prevention of children acting aggressively or dangerously on the equipment * wearing of sensible clothing and shoes (toggles on a hood can become caught on a slide and strangle the child). * community consultation for future play provisions
10. TO DESIGNATE ALL PLAYGROUNDS WITHIN THE PARISH AND ALL RECREATION GROUNDS AS AREAS WHERE DOG OWNERS MUST CLEAR UP AFTER THEIR DOGS.

LMPC has a duty to keep designated areas in their control, including parks and children's playgrounds, as clear of dog faeces as is practicable under part IV of the Environmental Act 1990

11. TO MAINTAIN A SITE REGISTER FOR THE PLAY AREA. To contain: * A copy of the Parish Play Policy * A Site Plan * Full Equipment Details * Inspection, Maintenance and forward planning programme * Details of Reported Accidents and Serious Incidents

SUMMARY LMPC Play Policy is designed to take account of all statutory requirements in addition to this Council's commitment to provide safe formal play areas and environmental play opportunities within the confines of LMPC budget facilities.

IMPLEMENTATION To enable implementation of the Play Policy, the Parish Council needs to: Identify any grants and sponsorship available to assist with costs. Consider creating a 'replacement fund', which can be added to each year, to enable implementation. Ensure awareness of the Play Policy within the Council and throughout the Parish. Instruct Councillors to carry out weekly and three monthly documented inspections. Acknowledge that the administration and implementation shall be the responsibility of the Clerk.