

Latton Parish Council
Play Area Management Policy

Introduction

This policy has been prepared to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Latton Parish Council (hereafter known as the Council) in respect of their play facilities and the assets within these facilities. The policy will outline the legal responsibilities of the Council and how they will meet these responsibilities through a system of inspection, assessing risk and responses to faults and risks. Playgrounds by their very nature should provide a degree of risk and challenges to the users. The policy will therefore summarise the Council's objectives in providing challenging play while identifying an acceptable degree of risk.

Legal Requirements

There is no specific legislation on play safety. However, the key legislation is:

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984
- Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

The Council have a duty to take actions to ensure the safety of people at work and members of the public who may be affected by the facilities provided by the Council. It is governed by the test of "reasonable practicability". In other words, it is reasonable to correct major hazards; it is unreasonable to spend considerable resources on minor faults where risk is negligible.

Industry Standards and Guidance

These standards and Safety Guidelines are not a legal requirement but are considered to be good professional working practice.

EN1176 – Playground Equipment

EN1176 is the European Standard which replaced the old British Standards. The standard is not retrospective and provides advice on design layout and the inspection of playground equipment. Contained within the guidance are the following key recommendations:

- That if the equipment is not safe, access by the public should be prevented
- The equipment must be inspected and maintained
- An inspection record should be maintained for 21 years

Area(s) of Responsibility

- Latton Recreation Field and Play Area (owned by the Council)

Civil Legislation

In the event of a claim being brought against the Council on the grounds that harm has occurred to one or more persons due to negligence on the part of the Council, there would have to be evidence that the Council took, or failed to take, some action which made the accident more likely to happen, or worse than would otherwise have been the case. The Council's defence will be based on the Council's Play Risk Management evidence such as records of inspections and maintenance, compliance with the Standards and relevant risk assessments.

Balancing Risks and Benefits

The Council's Risk Management Approach will aim to offer play spaces that are stimulating and challenging environments enabling children to explore and develop their abilities. In providing these environments the Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

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Playground Inspection Methodology

This section will identify the Council's methodology in managing the authority's its assets following:

- Inspections Frequency and Type
- Inspection Type Definitions
- Assessing the Level of Risk
- Summary of Risks

Inspection Frequency and Type

The table below details the frequency of inspections and the inspector responsible for carrying out the on-site inspections. The inspector and frequency rates are currently feasible.

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR
Weekly	Visual	Parish Handyman
Annually	Operational/Detailed	RoSPA Qualified Contractor

Date Approved by Council: 12 December 2023

Date for Review: May 2025