

RISK ASSESSMENT: NEW BEACONSFIELD HALL PLAYGROUND AND SKATE PARK

Introduction

This strategy has been prepared to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Shipton-u-Wychwood Parish Council's play facilities. The policy will outline the legal responsibilities of the authority and how the Parish Council 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 Parish 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 the:

- 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

Shipton-u-Wychwood Parish Council has a duty to take actions to ensure the safety of using the playground. 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 and potential injury very minor.

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 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

Balancing Risks and Benefits

The Parish Council will always try and ensure the following are offered:

- Natural elements

- Fabricated and natural materials
- Challenging
- Free movement
- Stimulating
- Variety
- Play with Identity
- Varied social interaction
- Exploration
- Develop skills

In providing these environments the Parish Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

Playground Inspection Methodology

Shipton-u-Wychwood Parish Council is responsible for 4 areas that will adhere to the guidance set out in this document. The areas include the playground, fitness equipment, skate board area and a multi-use games area (MUGA). Inspections are carried out weekly and any obvious hazards are repaired or taken out of action. Then a contractor is requested to conduct repair.

What are the hazards?	What could go wrong & who could be harmed?	What's already being done to control risks?	What additional controls are needed?
Financial	Inadequate insurance cover Inadequate budget provision Legal Liability arising from asset ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To include all relevant risks on the council's insurance policy ● Ensure that service requirements are detailed in budget process. ● Ensure that council's insurer is aware of facility provision ● Ensure adequate cover is provided in policy. ● Carry out annual review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cover to be checked & updated if required each year
Administration & Legal	Inadequate maintenance of records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To ensure that proper records of all complaints/injuries are maintained. ● Complaints record is kept by Clerk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Records to be kept on computer

