



BRIZE NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Risk Assessment for Playground Re-opening during COVID-19

<i>Risk Assessment for Playground Re-opening during COVID-19</i>	
Adopted by Full Council	Monday 7th September 2020
Next Review	As required

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened on 4 July 2020 and subsequently produced guidance offering “practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19”. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment” to assess and manage the risk of potential COVID-19 transmission. It is made very clear that “failure to complete a Risk Assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a Risk Assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could

constitute a breach of health and safety law”. However, Councils with under 5 employees do not have to write a Risk Assessment down, as long as there is proof that one has been carried out.

On that basis, this Risk Assessment takes each of the Key Principles as set out in the guidance and assesses whether or not practical arrangements can be put in place in the context of the open access Playground in Brize Norton.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Action for Mitigation	Assessment	Conclusion
General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	RoSPA inspection carried out during August 2020. Interim inspections to be carried out by Cllr Campion on checklist provided by RoSPA.	Equipment is safe to use	Low
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers 	Place signs on fencing to advise social distancing is observed. One parent/guardian to supervise their own children. Sign to advise that only two children at one time use each item of play equipment.	Difficult to police and monitor equipment as no member of Council staff present. Responsibility to lie with parents/guardians. Council to procure signs to advise responsibility for children lies with their parents/guardians and number of children on equipment, sanitising and number of people permitted in the play area at one time.	Medium

			Place advice on Council Website	
Cleaning and Hygiene	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment • Seating Areas • Refuse Bins <p>In addition, use signage to encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users to clean equipment before and after use • Use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>Parents held responsible for sanitising child's hands and equipment, before and after play to minimise transition risk.</p> <p>Signs to encourage and advise 'catch it, bin it, kill it', sanitizing and safe disposal of PPE/ masks/ wipes.</p> <p>A waste bin is provided in the play area.</p>	<p>Council is unable to clean and sanitise equipment.</p> <p>Emphasis on parents to bring their own sanitiser and to wipe equipment before use.</p> <p>PPE should be disposed of correctly.</p> <p>The waste bin will be emptied on a weekly basis but regular checks will take place to ensure that it does not reach capacity beforehand.</p> <p>Place advice on Council website</p>	Medium
Face Coverings	<p>If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. (Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it</p>	<p>Face coverings may pose a safety hazard on certain equipment.</p> <p>Children under 3 do not need to wear a mask.</p> <p>Children with special needs may not be able to wear a mask.</p>	<p>This guidance is applicable for enclosed spaces only.</p>	Low

	difficult to manage them correctly).			
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	<p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned parents, guardians or carers should dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided. 	<p>Advise parents that play is at their own risk.</p> <p>Advise consumption of food and drink in the playground area is banned.</p> <p>Advise parents/guardians to take any PPE home to dispose of safely.</p> <p>A waste bin is provided in the play area.</p>	<p>Responsibility lies with parents/ guardians.</p> <p>Council to procure signs to advise no food in the play area and safe disposal of PPE.</p> <p>PPE should be disposed of correctly.</p> <p>The waste bin will be emptied on a weekly basis but regular checks will take place to ensure that it does not reach capacity beforehand.</p> <p>Place advice on Council website</p>	Low
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Parent/guardian to monitor children with additional needs.	Responsibility lies with parents/guardians.	Low
Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:	<p>Playground is not staffed.</p> <p>School staff may monitor a one-way system through the play area.</p>	Parish Council to monitor the situation and update the Risk Assessment, if required.	Low

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning playground equipment/surrounding areas • managing queues of those waiting to use equipment • stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with rules made by the owner/operator 			
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Conclusions

- 1) BNPC agreed to open the playground on 22 August 2020
- 2) BNPC to review usage and impact within the first week

Risk Assessments undertaken and agreed by Brize Norton Parish Council.

August 2020