

Seascale Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Equipment

Risk Assessment

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”. 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”. 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 Seascale Parish Council Play area.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	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.	Play area has a monthly inspection carried out by Copeland BC and the entire site was inspected and classed as in good condition. The play area is also inspected on a regular basis by a member of the SPC and any action required is carried as necessary	No issues identified. Monthly inspections and will raise any issues identified and actioned.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m	Foreshore play area is relatively large open area with much of the equipment well-	Signage to be prepared regarding social distancing guidance and use of the play-

	<p>or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers 	<p>spaced and used by a low population density local area. With some use by visitors to the area.</p> <p>The Coniston Avenue play area has no equipment as was in the process of refurbishment, until the Covid-19 lockdown closed the process.</p> <p>A booking system is not practicable due to the size & budget and staff resource of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Advisory Signage will be installed asking parents of users to follow social distancing.</p>	<p>area in conjunction with the new COVID requirements.</p>
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>It is not practicable for the Parish Council to clean play equipment or the infrastructure in and around the play area due to budgetary and staff constraints.</p> <p>The play area is sited in the open air and receives contact from all elements (e.g. sunshine, rain etc) and it is recognised that the natural</p>	<p>Signage to be installed confirming that the play equipment is not washed/cleaned and that users should take responsibility for their use of hand sanitiser.</p>

	Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.	elements reduce the amount of time that the virus survives on surfaces.	
Face Coverings	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 difficult to manage them correctly).	The Play-Area is not in an enclosed public space, and is unlikely to be ever be considered a 'crowded' space.	Face covering will be at the discretion of the public.
Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents	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: <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 	As per government guidance, food & drink on the play equipment and in the playground area is prohibited. There are public litter bins near the site.	Signage to be included on the disposal of litter & waste. Food & drink only to be consumed in the seating areas.

	properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.		
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	The Covid 19 pandemic has not altered the accessibility of the play area.	N/A
Keeping Staff Safe	<p>Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include:</p> <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 	Seascale Parish Council only has 2 members of staff, both work minimal hours per week, as noted above the Parish Council are not able to offer staff resource to manning and cleaning the play area on a daily basis.	The Volunteer Council member erecting the new signage will be advised to wear gloves whilst erecting the new signs, and to carry hand sanitiser with them, and to wash their hands on return to their home.

Conclusions

New signage to be erected at the Seascale Parish Council play area site, covering the matters discussed in the risk assessment above. The risk assessment will be reviewed and retained following any future alteration to governmental regulations.

Risk Assessments undertaken by Amenities working group and compiled by the clerk/RPO. Approved by a majority response from all councillors.

1 July 2020