

# **Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council**

## **Playground Risk Management Policy – adopted 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

### **Introduction**

This policy has been prepared to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council's play area situated at Faulkland and the assets within these facilities. The policy will outline the legal responsibilities of the authority and how Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote 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 Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote 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

Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish 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 Local Authority. 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 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

### **Civil Legislation**

In the event of a serious accident claims are based on negligence: that is, the Parish 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 defence will be based on Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Councils Play Risk Management evidence such as records of inspections and maintenance, compliance with the Standards and relevant risk assessments.

### **Balancing Risks and Benefits**

Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Councils 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 Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

### **Playground Inspection Methodology**

Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council is responsible for 1 recreational area that will adhere to the guidance set out in this document. The responsibility for the operational regular inspection of the play in Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote will be carried out by a dedicated Councillor. This section will identify Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council's methodology in managing the authority's 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 given resources available to Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council.

<b>FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION</b>	<b>INSPECTION TYPE</b>	<b>INSPECTOR</b>
Weekly	Visual	Dedicated Councillor
Annual	Annual Detailed	RoSPA

The weekly visual inspection will be carried out using the relevant form provided by the Clerk.

### **Inspection Type – Definitions**

#### **Routine Visual Inspections – EN 1176-7.6.2a - LOOK and SEE**

It includes the identification of obvious hazards resulting from use, weather and vandalism, broken parts or bottles, litter, graffiti, equipment misuse. Obvious hazards as described above will be reported to the Clerk.

#### **Annual Main Inspection – EN1176-7.6.2c**

These inspections will approximately be carried out every 12 month, not exceeding 15 months.

The overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces

The effects of weather, evidence of rotting or corrosion and any change in the level of safety as a result of repairs made or added or replacement components.

The annual Inspections are to be carried out by an independent inspector/contractor.

### **Accidents, Enquiries and Claims**

Hardington, Hemington and Foxcote Parish Council will record all accidents and enquires relating to the play areas and facilities within them. The details of the enquiry, complaint or accident will be recorded within the same system used for issuing and recording inspections. Recording incidents in this manner will enable the Parish Council to illustrate a clear chain of information from the inspection, the associated risk, details of works and repairs carried out and any information related to an accident or enquiry. This information will enable the Parish Council to defend itself against claims and be an effective management tool for future improvements.

DIY repairs should not be carried out unless they are endorsed by the original manufacturer or installer and repairs should always be carried out by a competent person. Where a safety surface has been installed, more regular inspection and maintenance may be required to ensure that it remains in good condition.