

# FARRINGTON GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Playground Risk Management Policy

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### Introduction

This policy has been prepared to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Farrington Gurney Parish Council's play area situated at the Memorial Hall and the assets within these facilities. The policy serves to outline the legal responsibilities of the authority and how Farrington Gurney 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 Farrington Gurney 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

Farrington Gurney 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 Farrington Gurney 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

Farrington Gurney 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 Farrington Gurney Parish Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

## Playground & BMX Track Inspection Methodology

Farrington Gurney Parish Council is responsible for one recreational area which contains a Playground and BMX Track that will adhere to the guidance set out in this document.

The responsibility for the operational regular inspection of the play in Farrington Gurney will be carried out by a dedicated Councillor. This section will identify Farrington Gurney 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 Farrington Gurney Parish Council.

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR
Fortnightly	Visual	Dedicated Councillor - Playground Dedicated Councillor - BMX Track
Annual	Annual Detailed	RoSPA

- Fortnightly visual inspection carried out and recorded by nominated Cllr (retain record between PCM).
- Reporting by exception between meetings - bringing anything of note to the attention of the Clerk.
- Record of visual checks to be noted at the Parish Council Meeting.
- An information sheet detailing regular checks will be provided.

### Inspection Type – Definitions

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

It includes 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 months, and should not exceed 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** Farrington Gurney 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.