



Playground Risk Management Policy

1. Introduction

This policy has been prepared to formally recognise the maintenance and inspection regime of Tidworth Town Council (hereafter known as the Council) in respect of their recreational facilities and the assets within these facilities. The policy will outline the legal responsibilities of the Council and how they 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 Council's objectives in providing challenging play while identifying an acceptable degree of risk.

2. Legal Requirements

There is no specific legislation on play safety. However, the key legislation is:

- 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

The 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 Council. 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.

3. 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



4. Areas of Responsibility

- George VI (leased from the Aster Group)
- Beech Hill Road (leased from the Aster Group)
- Riverbourne Fields Estate Phase 1 (owned by the Council)
- Riverbourne Fields Estate Phase 2 (owned by the Council)
- Manor Rise x 2 (owned by the Council)

5. Civil Legislation

In the event of a claim being brought against the Council on the grounds that harm has occurred to one or more persons due to negligence on the part of the Council, there would have to be evidence that the 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 Council's defence will be based on the Council's Play Risk Management evidence such as records of inspections and maintenance, compliance with the Standards and relevant risk assessments.

6. Balancing Risks and Benefits

The Council's 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 the Council will manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks and hazards.

7. Playground Inspection Methodology

This section will identify the Council's methodology in managing the authority's its assets following:

- Inspections Frequency and Type
- Inspection Type Definitions
- Assessing the Level of Risk
- Summary of Risks

8. 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.



FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR
Weekly	Visual	Grounds Maintenance Contractor
Quarterly	Operational Detailed	RoSPA qualified contractor

All inspections will be carried out using the relevant form which will be passed to the Services Administrator to bring to the attention of the Community Services Committee.

9. Inspection Type – Definitions

Routine Visual Inspections – EN 1176-7.6.2a - LOOK & SEE

This includes the identification of obvious hazards resulting from use, weather and vandalism, noting broken parts, litter (especially dangerous litter such as bottles), graffiti, or any signs of equipment misuse. Through existing contract arrangements, contractors working on behalf of the Council carry out the grounds maintenance. Obvious hazards as described above that are seen by the contractor are to be reported to the Services Administrator.

Operational Inspections – EN1176-76.2b/c - POKE & PROD

Operational Inspections provide a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of all equipment and surfaces especially for wear, as listed below:

- Check repairs carried out by others; rust and rot; bearings.
- Cleanliness
- Equipment Ground Clearance
- Exposed Foundations
- Sharp Edges
- Missing Parts
- Excessive Wear (of moving parts)
- Structural Integrity
- 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 Council may alter the frequency of the operational inspections and this decision will be dependent on the grading of the area which will consider factors such as popularity, profile and equipment type.



10. Accidents, Enquiries and Claims

The Council will record all accidents and enquires relating to the play areas and the 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 Council to demonstrate 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 be used to enable the Council to defend itself against negligence claims and also be an effective management tool for future improvements.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Print Name) _____ Chair, Tidworth Town Council