

Cainscross Town 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.

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.	Daily visual checks and monthly full safety check	Sufficient
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	Signs put up at entrance to all parks limiting numbers as well as signs on individual pieces of equipment limiting numbers. Entrance signs also offering advice on hygiene etc	Satisfactory
Cleaning and Hygiene	Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:	Agreed staff are not able to clean all play areas and this could give the	Satisfactory

	<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>	public a false sense of security. We have signs encouraging people to wash hands before leaving home and on return, plus suggestion that parents should bring own hand sanitiser. Social distancing is encouraged, and limited numbers allowed in play area / equipment at one time	
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).	Outdoor Space where social distancing is possible.	Satisfactory
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 	<p>Signs erected at all play areas. Groundsman to check they are still in place daily and carries spare signs to replace when necessary.</p>	Added to website

	including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves 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.	Same rules apply	Satisfactory
Keeping Staff Safe	Consider the risks staff may be exposed to and how these can be mitigated. Staff roles may include: <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 	Insufficient staff to man the play areas. Signs encourage parents / carers to take responsibility for their child's safety.	Satisfactory

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