

Hesket Parish Council

Re-opening of Play Area

Risk Assessment

Following closure of Play Areas due to covid-19, the UK Government announced that these could be re-opened from July 4th 2020. The government 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 included a requirement to conduct an appropriate risk assessment prior to re-opening. This 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>

| 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. | <p>The Play Area is inspected annually to ROSPA standards, and was last inspected in August 2019.</p> <p>Prior to reopening, a visual inspection was carried out to ensure that no damage had occurred in the interim.</p> | <p>No immediate issues identified at annual inspection.</p> <p>No issues identified.</p> |
| Social Distancing | <p>Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m 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>Armathwaite Play Area is in a relatively small fenced area, used by a low population density local area.</p> <p>A booking system is not practicable due to lack of staff resources.</p> <p>Advisory Signage can be posted at area.</p> <p>Due to size of areas and wood chip surfacing, marking of waiting areas is not practical.</p> | <p>Signage to be prepared regarding social distancing guidance, and use of the Play Area in conjunction with the new COVID requirements.</p> |

To be formally approved at the July 14th Meeting of Hesket Parish Council.

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| 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>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p> | <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 it is recognised that the natural elements reduce the amount of time that the virus survives on surfaces.</p> <p>There are no hand washing or sanitising facilities at site, and it is not practical to install any at this time.</p> | <p>Signage to be installed confirming that the play equipment has been not cleaned/sanitised and that users should take responsibility for their use of hand sanitiser.</p> |
| Face Coverings | <p>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).</p> | <p>The Play-Area is not an enclosed public space, and is unlikely to be ever be considered a 'crowded' space.</p> | <p>Guidance on face covering will be included in the signage installed on site.</p> |
| Considering Children with Additional Needs | <p>Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.</p> | <p>Covid-19 has not altered the accessibility of the play area.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

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| 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 including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided. | <p>There are no food or drink facilities on site.</p> <p>A litter bin is available on site.</p> | <p>Signage to be installed prohibiting consumption of food and drink, and to encourage use of litter bin provided.</p> |
| 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 | <p>Hesket Parish Council only have one member of staff employed on a part-time basis, and as noted above the Parish Council are not able to offer staff resources to manning and cleaning the play area on a daily basis.</p> | <p>Hand sanitiser will be used before and after erection of signage.</p> |

Conclusions

New signage will be erected at Armathwaite Play Area covering the matters discussed in the risk assessment above. The risk assessment will be reviewed and retained following any future alteration to government regulations.

Risk Assessment undertaken by the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Hesket Parish Council, on July 1st, 2020.

To be formally approved at the July 14th Meeting of Hesket Parish Council.