

MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLAY AREA POLICY DOCUMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 2018

Foreword

Middleton St. George Parish Council believes that play is a vital component of growing up and is how children develop skills, physical, social and intellectual. This document is intended to guide Middleton St. George Parish Council in its role as the providers of the Play Area in Station Road, Middleton St. George.

This policy applies only to play equipment upon the Play Area in Station Road, Middleton St. George.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 recommends that owners and managers of premises should undertake a risk assessment of their facilities – this includes the children's playground.

This document defines and makes clear the duties and responsibilities of Middleton St. George Parish Council as the responsible body for the Play Area. This also includes a risk assessment setting out the key hazards and the Council's risk mitigation process.

Middleton St George Parish Council Play Area Management Policy Document – Risk Assessment

The purpose of the document is to:

- assess the risks relating to the play area at Station Road, Middleton St. George
- provide a formal way for the Parish Council to identify and be notified of potentially dangerous equipment within the play area.
- ensure the Council has sufficient information to make decisions on play equipment condition
- ensure that play equipment damage can be detected in a reasonable time
- ensure that potentially dangerous equipment is properly dealt with and appropriate action taken

Control measures are then applied to the significant risks where the remaining residual risks are re-scored to ensure all risks are suitably managed and controlled.

Play Equipment provided in the Play Area, Station Road, Middleton St. George

The play equipment in the play area are as follows:

Perimeter fencing and gates
Litter Bins
Youth Shelters
Multiplay
Rocker - 4 seat
Rocker- seesaw
Spacenet
Swing - Junior - 1 bay 2 seats
Swing - Toddler - 1 bay 2 seats

Cableway/Zip Wire
 Swing – Tyre
 Cyclone
 Basketball Station
 Orb Rocker
 Surfacing

Hazardous Event	Consequence	Affected	Management controls	Residual risk and further measures
Equipment which is dangerous is not identified	Play area condition deteriorates and is not recognised.	Public	<p>The Clerk will confirm that he/she has undertaken inspections to identify any problems/hazards that have been created by use, abuse, weather and age.</p> <p>ROUTINE INSPECTIONS: An inspection will to be carried out every week, by the Clerk. All routine inspections will be recorded on the Play Area inspection sheets whether or not there are problems or hazards identified.</p> <p>ANNUAL INSPECTIONS: An inspection will be undertaken on a yearly basis by the RoSPA accredited Inspector from Darlington Borough and will be arranged by the Parish Council. These reports will determine any action that needs taking</p>	Tolerable No further action needed
Equipment which is damaged is not dealt with correctly	People are injured whilst using the play equipment	Public	<p>All items within the Play Area, whether or not shown on the Asset Register, will be inspected by the Clerk. All routine inspections will be undertaken in accordance with Information Sheet 24 provided by RoSPA, and will be recorded on the sheets provided by the Parish Council. All inspection reports will be retained by the Parish Council within its records. They will be available for inspection by request. Any issues raised by any inspection will be brought immediately to the Parish Council's attention.</p>	Tolerable No Further Action needed

Hazardous Event	Consequence	Affected	Management controls	Residual risk and further measures
			Any questions will be raised with the RosPA accredited inspector who is employed by Darlington Borough Council, and in the event of immediate remedial action needing to be taken the Chair or Vice Chair of the Parish Council will have delegated powers to close any piece of play equipment by either its removal, isolation or rendering harmless any dangers found.	
Defective ground surfaces eg. potholes causing trips and injury	People who are injured	Public	Weekly inspection of area by the Clerk. Defects reported to the Clerk Screening off of defective areas. Prompt remedial action.	Tolerable No Further Action needed
Litter / glass etc. causing injury	People who are injured	Public	Weekly inspection on the area by the Clerk Litter picking carried out once each week by the Litter Picker. Litter Picking carried out as soon as a report is made to the Clerk.	Tolerable No Further Action needed
Discarded syringes etc.	People who are injured	Public	Weekly inspection of area by the Clerk. Safe litter picking procedures involving use of personal protective equipment and clothing Safe disposal of collected materials.	Tolerable No Further Action needed
Dog faeces causing infection / toxicariasis	People who come into contact with the faeces	Public	Signage prohibiting dog walking on site except on a lead and dogs prohibited from entering the play area. Safe clearing procedures involving use of personal protective clothing and equipment Safe disposal of collected waste	Tolerable No Further Action needed
Poisonous / thorny plants Skin irritation, scratches etc.	People who come into contact with the plants	Public	Weekly inspection of areas for unsuitable plants and weeds by the Clerk. Grounds maintenance	Tolerable No Further Action needed

Hazardous Event	Consequence	Affected	Management controls	Residual risk and further measures
			procedures including safe disposal where necessary	
Inclement weather conditions	People who are injured	Public	Restricted / prohibited access to play area and playing field during periods of inclement weather eg snow / ice / Strong winds etc	Tolerable No Further Action needed

This document is based upon guidance from RoSPA.

The person responsible for play equipment inspections is as nominated by the Parish Council as the Clerk.

This document was written by the Clerk, Alan Macnab

This document was approved by Middleton St. George Parish Council at its meeting on 22nd October, 2018.