



MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL

PLAY AREA POLICY, RISK ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION PROTOCOL APRIL 2022

Foreword

The Parish Council believes that play is a vital component of growing up and is how children develop skills, physical, social and intellectual.

This policy applies to play equipment in 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 play area..

This document defines and makes clear the duties and responsibilities of the 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

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.

This document is based upon guidance from RoSPA.

The Risk Assessment for the Play Area is given in Appendix 1.

The protocol for weekly inspection of the Play Area is given in Appendix 2.

The person responsible for the Play Area is the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Date of approval of this document

This document was approved by Middleton St. George Parish Council at its meeting on the 11th April, 2022

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

The play equipment in the play area is as follows:

- Perimeter fencing and gates
- Litter Bins
- Petal Shelters
- Multiplay
- Rocker - 4 seat
- Rocker- seesaw
- Spacenet
- Swing - Junior - 1 bay 2 seats
- Swing - Toddler - 1 bay 2 seat
- Accessible Swing
- Swing – Tyre
- Basketball Station
- Orb Rocker
- Surfacing

APPENDIX 1 MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity:	Play Area	Site:	Station Road Play Area, Middleton St. George
People at Risk:	All users.	Additional Information:	

To determine the risk rating, look at the likelihood and the severity of the outcome if the hazard is realised. Assign the rating Low, Medium or High (L, M, H) based on the risk matrix (prior to any control measures being put in place to reduce the risk). The residual risk involves making two judgements, one on the severity of any possible injury and the other on the likelihood of harm occurring.

Type of Injury	Likely	Possible	Remote
Fatality	High	High	Medium
Serious Injury	High	Medium	Medium
Minor Injury	Medium	Low	Low
No Injury	Low	Low	Low

Hazard	Who may be affected and how	Initial Rating (L,M,H)	Existing Control Measures	Residual Risk (L,M,H)	Additional Action Required (action by whom and completion date)
Severe weather conditions Snow / ice / wet leaves	Parents, Carers and Children. Slipping & falling	M	Access to the play area may be restricted/prohibited during periods of severe weather e.g. snow / ice / strong winds etc	L	
Injury from falling	Children. Broken limbs, cuts and grazes	M		L	

Hazard	Who may be affected and how	Initial Rating (L,M,H)	Existing Control Measures	Residual Risk (L,M,H)	Additional Action Required (action by whom and completion date)
Injury from equipment failure or injury from damaged equipment.	Children Trapped fingers from equipment collapse, falls	L	Weekly inspections by a Parish Councillor. 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. An annual RoSPA trained inspections is carried out. Play equipment will be taken out of use if found to be hazardous for use or have failed and will not be used until the defect or failure has been repaired.	L	
Defective ground surfaces eg. potholes and edges which have lifted	Children and parents/carers. Slips, trips and falls.		Weekly inspections by a Parish Councillor. Screening off of defective areas pending repairs. Defects reported to the Clerk. Prompt remedial action.	L	
Vandalism	Users. Injuries.	M	Police to be informed immediately by members of the public / Cllrs / Clerk In the event of vandalism and the area locked off until rectified / graffiti removed etc.	L	

Hazard	Who may be affected and how	Initial Rating (L,M,H)	Existing Control Measures	Residual Risk (L,M,H)	Additional Action Required (action by whom and completion date)
Litter / glass etc. causing injury	Users. Injuries.	M	Litter picking carried out weekly by the Litter Picker.	L	
Hazardous substance / fly tipping and drugs paraphernalia..	Children and parents/carers. Injury and serious illness.	L	Weekly inspection by a Parish Councillor. Safe litter picking by the Litter Picker who has personal protective equipment and clothing.	L	
Dog excrement	Children and parents/carers Slip and fall /illness	L	Signs permitting dog walking if the dog is on a lead. Safe clearing procedures by the Litter Picker. Notices are displayed reminding dog owners to pick up after dogs, dog bins provided or disposal of collected waste.	L	
First Aid Provision	Children, parents/carers Injury / accident.	L	A defibrillator is available outside the Londis Convenience Shop in The Square for users of the play area. All incidents of use are reported through the North East Ambulance Service who liaise with the Councillor responsible.	L	
Noise pollution / antisocial behaviour	Play Area users or intruders in the play area. Complaints of noise / nuisance	L	The Parish Council expects general common sense and appropriate use of equipment.	L	

APPENDIX 2. MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR WEEKLY INSPECTION OF THE PLAY AREA

Date of Inspection.....Person carrying out the inspection.....

SITE, SURFACES & ANCILLARY ITEM	Yes	No	Action Required and when	Work Done		Comments
				Yes	No	
Signs present & clean						
Fences secure & good condition						
Gates in good working order						
Pathways safe & unobstructed						
Site free of litter, glass, dog excrement, hazardous substance / fly tipping and drugs paraphernalia.						
Litter bins secure undamaged and empty						
Floor surface is undamaged or shows signs of wear						
Signs of vandalism						
EQUIPMENT						
Petal Shelter 1						
Petal Shelter 2						
Multiplay						
Rocker - 4 seat						
Rocker- seesaw						
Spacenet						
Swing - Junior - 1 bay 2 seats						
Swing - Toddler - 1 bay 2 seat						
Accessible Swing						
Swing – Tyre						
Basketball Station						
Orb Rocker						