



Cuxton Parish 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 in the context of the Play Park in the recreation ground, Bush Road Cuxton.

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.	We have qualified volunteers who could carry out this assessment.	It is possible to carry out a safety inspection.
Social Distancing	Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m or 1m plus	Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff or volunteers available	Social Distancing cannot be managed by the council.

	<p>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 	to manage social distancing at the play park.	
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>Cuxton Parish Council do not have hand washing facilities available.</p> <p>The risk of hand sanitiser being stolen from the park makes it unviable to provide this and ensure supplies do not run out.</p> <p>A sign could be displayed giving this advice.</p>	Appropriate cleaning of equipment between users is not possible and therefore the risk of infection cannot be mitigated.
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</p>	<p>Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff available to manage this.</p> <p>However, a sign could be displayed giving this advice.</p>	Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff available to manage this.

	may find it difficult to manage them correctly).		
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. 	A sign could be displayed giving this advice.	We have been advised by our insurance company that signage is not sufficient to adequately mitigate the risks.
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff available to manage this.	Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff available to manage this.
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 	Cuxton Parish Council do not have staff available to manage this.	These risks cannot be mitigated.

	rules made by the owner/operator		
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Conclusions

Cuxton Parish Council do not have available staff to be able to steward and clean the play area. Although signs could be put up, small children cannot read and these would not adequately mitigate the risks.

The playground will therefore remain closed until further government advice is received.

Risk Assessment undertaken by the Clerk and conclusions agreed by Land Management Committee.

2 July 2020