



Re-opening of Playgrounds 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 COVID19, 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 for the Play Area School Avenue, Salford Priors, WR11 8XB.

| Key Principle | Government Guidance | Assessment | Control Measure Conclusion |
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| General Maintenance Issues following Lockdown | Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening. | An annual safety inspection was carried out by The Play Inspection Company on 15 th July 2020. | Minor works have been identified but will not necessitate the continued closure of the equipment. Works have been ordered to be carried out. |
| 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 | It is not practically possible for Salford Priors Parish Council to operate a booking system or to monitor and limit users of the facility. The Council can comply with the signage requirements | The onus will be upon users of the facility to ensure they observe social distancing rules. The Council will prominently display guideline notices at the entrances to the site and the entrance to the toddler area. These will contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social distancing advice of 2m and advise that other users should be given space. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To return later if the play area is busy. • Maximum of 6 users in the toddler area with one family member per user • Only one person/family unit to sit on a bench at any one time |
| 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 where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points. | <p>Salford Priors Parish Council has insufficient resources to introduce a frequent cleaning rota of play equipment. It is not practically possible for the Council to ensure users clean the equipment before and after use as the site is not monitored/manned. Nor can hand washing facilities be provided at the entry/exit. The Council will not undertake cleaning of any play equipment and signs advising users of this will be clearly visible at the entry points of the play area.</p> | <p>Signage will be created to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the visit • Use a sanitising wipe to wipe down equipment before and after use • Wash hands thoroughly when arriving home • Remember to not touch your face or put your hands in your mouth • No food or drink in the play areas • Through any rubbish in the bins provided or take it home |
| 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). The Play Area owned by Salford Priors Parish Council does not contain any enclosed spaces. It is an entirely outdoor setting where social distancing is easily achievable.</p> | <p>Some play area users are young children who will struggle to wear a face mask consistently and correctly. Salford Priors Parish Council will not recommend that users wear a face mask whilst using play equipment.</p> | <p>The guidelines notice will remind users not to put their mouths on equipment and hands near their faces. Adults may choose to wear face coverings should they wish to, but it is not a mandatory requirement of the Parish Council. The Parish Council asks that ALL children are accompanied to the park with a responsible adult who will be responsible for their actions.</p> |

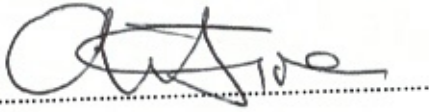
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| Additional Measures and Communicating with Parents | <p>Promote responsible behaviour by children, parents, carers and guardians. For example, owners and operators should consider putting up signs to make clear to users, parents, guardians and carers 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. | The Council can comply with the signage requirements. | <p>The guidelines notice will advise users that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and drink should not be consumed in the play areas. • Litter must be properly disposed of or taken home (to include PPE items) <p>All precautions and notices will be displayed clearly on Facebook and the Parish Council website.</p> |
| Considering children with additional needs | <p>Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs. Unsupervised children will not be able to use the equipment and therefore the onus can be placed on the accompanying adult to ensure understanding and compliance. The Council is not able to “staff” the play area.</p> | The supervising adult will need to be responsible for communicating the expectations this risk assessment places on users to all children in their care. | The accompanying adult will also need to ensure they assist/enable children with additional needs to understand and manage these requirements e.g. to maintain social distancing. |
| 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 | Salford Priors Parish Council does not have sufficient human resources to ensure the play area is manned and therefore staff members will not be placed at any risk. | Control measures are not required |

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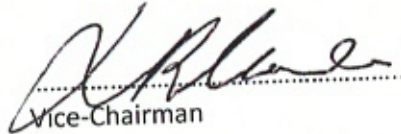
Conclusions

Salford Priors Parish Council will open the Recreation Playground on Friday 7th August 2020. The annual safety play equipment inspection (15th July 2020) deemed that this equipment is suitable to return to use by the public. Notices will be highly visible informing users that the equipment is NOT cleaned by the Council and they use it at their own risk. Notices outlining guidelines to be followed as a result of this risk assessment will also be displayed. This risk assessment will be kept under regular review.

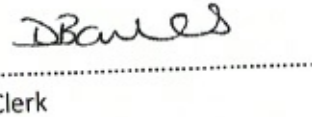
Conclusions agreed by all Councillors at an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Full Council on 3rd August 2020.



Chairman



Vice-Chairman



Clerk