

Farnsfield Parish Council Risk Assessment for playground reopening after closure forced by COVID - 12 July 2020. Completed by Cllr. Johnson (Acting Clerk)

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened from **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. 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. 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 our playgrounds which are

- A small children’s play park at Parfitt Drive and an adventure trail.
- A playground for mixed ages at Lady Goodwin’s Memorial Ground with some outdoor adult fitness equipment and a mini tennis court.
- An open space at Wilson’s field with a MUGA at the site.

The play spaces are used mainly by local families and Farnsfield has a relatively small population and this has been taken into account in completing this assessment.

The next review will be when guidance changes or before 31 July 2020.

Key principles	Government guidance from the link above	Recommended actions after assessment	Notes/Actions
General Maintenance Issues	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	Ensure regular inspections complete and logged. Check frequency of playground checks by caretaker and ensure that the checks are logged and any issues reported.	Full annual inspection completed in Oct 2020. All risks were low. NSDC quarterly inspection completed 7 July – no significant issues reported. Next annual inspection due July/Aug
Social Distancing	Consider measures to support social distancing - 2m or 1m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advisory limit on the maximum users • advisory time limit • Limiting available swing seats or social seating • advisory signage • create waiting areas with barriers if safe 	Place advisory signage reminding users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of the need to stay 2m apart • to come back later if the park is busy Council to check that equipment is spread out at greater than 2m distances and consider removal if not (none noted).	Poster placed at Lady Goodwin’s Parfitt Drive, MUGA and Wilson’s Field entrance Equipment is well distanced in most cases. Swings in pairs are closer at both playgrounds but were being used sensibly when the checked. No action considered necessary at this time. A one way system or waiting areas are not considered necessary at this time. Booking system is not practicable.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider use of one way system for outdoor gym or moving equipment to 2m distancing remove outdoor gym equipment less than 2m apart booking system if practicable. 		
Cleaning and Hygiene	Consider cleaning high traffic touch points frequently to manage risk.	No action.	Not practicable as village caretaker employed for only 7.5 hours per week.
	<p>Consider signage to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage users to clean equipment before and after use encourage the use of hand sanitiser and frequent hand washing 	<p>Signage to remind parents to wash/sanitise children's hands before & after play and not to touch hands and face.</p> <p>Review at the next assessment.</p>	<p>Done.</p> <p>Parents not reminded to clean equipment before use at the present time. Use of hand sanitiser and hand washing encouraged.</p> <p>Too much signage can be ignored.</p>
	Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.	No action, other than advice to sanitise or wash hands which is included on signage.	Not practicable for FPC to provide hand sanitiser due to risk of misuse, theft and vandalism.
Face coverings	If possible, a face covering should be worn in enclosed public spaces where social distancing is not possible and where the public may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.	No action.	Not applicable as FPC play spaces are not enclosed.
Additional measures and communicating with parents	Operators should provide information to parents to set clear expectations about how children should behave when using playgrounds through more signs and online or through leafletting.	Promote responsible behaviour by children and parents by posting on social media and council website and including in the July Newsletter	Posted on FPC website and facebook page. "You might have noticed that the playgrounds and games area on Station Lane and Parfitt Drive are open after being closed because of COVID-19. The play equipment is not cleaned or sanitised and use of the play areas is at your own risk. Don't forgot to keep 2

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			metres apart. Come back later if the area is busy. Please make sure you and your children use an alcohol based hand sanitiser or wash hands immediately before and after using the play equipment. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, face or mouth and for your own safety and the safety of others you should not eat food or drink in the playgrounds. Please dispose of litter properly."
	<p>Consider putting up signs to make it clear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that consumption of food or drink in the playground area is banned. • dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or 	No action at this time, review if considered a problem.	Too much signage is often ignored and the message not to touch face or mouth is considered enough. Users seem not to be using PPE at this time.
	Consider reminding parents that use of the playgrounds is "at their own risk"	Signage to include message "that use of equipment is at your own risk".	Done, included on the poster
Consider children with additional need	Operators must take into account the requirements of children with additional needs	Council to Investigate further how we can consider the needs of children with additional needs.	