

EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL

PLAYGROUND POLICY

The Parish Council has a vision for playground facilities in East Leake and is focused on developing one large, modern and challenging play area in the centre of the village for all ages and abilities. Housing areas should have open play space for free play, kick-about etc., and possibly a small amount of onsite play equipment provision for younger children.

The Parish Council's vision is for East Leake is to be developed as a "walking village" – with emphasis on footpaths and cycle paths that connect the areas of housing to facilities and services in the centre of the village, to discourage unnecessary use of cars. The Gotham Road play area is in the heart of the village, open and clearly visible, and is provided with public conveniences, shops and cafes for refreshments, and good car parking facilities for those who need them. There is a large area of open space nearby, with a vision to develop seating and further picnic areas for use by families. The play area provides productive activities for older children and teenagers using the facility independently.

Families pass through the centre of the village on school journeys, for shopping, Health Centre appointments, and use of the Library. A visit to the play area is a natural part of the activity. A social hub develops, where families can meet and interact. This in turn encourages use of the local shops and supports the economy.

The policy therefore safeguards the lion's share of contributions from developers to fund play equipment provision to be used to enhance the central play areas.

The play area shall be sited in a position which is suitable for its purpose, sufficiently large for the population and which may be reached in safety.

Any surrounding features, which are likely to constitute a danger to children using the area shall be removed or protected by appropriate safety measures.

The design of the area shall comply with normal safety requirements and, where appropriate, to BS EN 1176.

Children with special needs must be considered and provided for.

Where the Standard is not applicable, advice shall be sought from RoSPA, (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) NPFA (National Playing Fields Association) or other appropriate body.

The design of the area shall be generally appropriate for the anticipated age ranges of the users, and all abilities. Areas for different ages shall be considered.

New equipment purchased shall conform to BS EN 1176. Old equipment should meet BS 5696 or DIN 7926 and when upgraded must be to BS EN 1176. Manufacturers or suppliers shall provide written confirmation of Standard compliance.

Where equipment is unable to meet a Standard, an explanation of acceptability or evidence of third party testing by a recognised body shall be provided.

Appropriate surfaces shall be provided and where a protective surface is provided it shall have been tested in accordance with the appropriate Standards. The manufacturer or designer shall provide test certificates from a recognised test house (normally BSI, British Safety Institute)

- The installer shall provide written confirmation that the equipment and surfacing have been installed in accordance with the manufacturers or designers instructions and to the relevant Standards.
- A post-installation inspection shall be carried out by RoSPA or NPFA
- A range of appropriate items of equipment, suitable for the intended use shall be provided as required and their positioning and construction comply to BS EN 1176 where relevant.
- Signs indicating ownership, appropriate age limitations and other management requirements shall be clearly displayed.
- Appropriate insurance shall be taken out to protect users and staff
- The play area shall be inspected weekly by a competent person and written records maintained
- An annual inspection by an independent specialist shall be undertaken
- Appropriate training shall be made available to inspection and maintenance staff
- Appropriate maintenance and repairs shall be carried out and written records kept.

Adopted by Full Council: 22 October 2019