



STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Play Area Child Protection Policy

Adopted on: 2007

Review date:

Sturminster Newton Town Council will promote and encourage the safety of all children within the play area and will follow the following guidelines:

1. The interests of all children in the play area or involved in any activities of the play area will therefore be considered paramount.
2. The equipment within the play area will have been designed, produced and tested to meet appropriate standards and will be installed as recommended by the suppliers or an approved professional body.
3. The environment within the play area will be built and installed as advised and approved by play area safety professionals.
4. The equipment and play area will be inspected to an appropriate level at a defined frequency, and will be inspected annually by a qualified play equipment inspector.
5. The activities of children on the equipment and in the play area are the responsibility of the parents or carers.
6. The groundsmen will be responsible for:
 - a. Weekly and monthly visual inspections of the play area and equipment
 - b. facilitating and co-ordinating with the qualified play equipment inspector
 - c. reacting to any public report of any incident with the equipment or within the play area
 - d. reporting any matter affecting the play area, its equipment or its users. Serious matters being reported immediately to the Town Clerk and the relevant statutory authority, such as the Police. All matters to be referred to the next meeting of Amenities Committee or the Town Council, whichever is sooner.
7. Notices will be placed in the play area stating the age limits for use of the equipment, any special care necessary and giving the contact details of the Town Council.
8. Sturminster Newton Town Council will seek advice on safety aspects of its operation of the play area and equipment from those with professional experience in the field.
9. Sturminster Newton Town Council will be empowered to close the play area or disable use of any of the equipment if necessary to ensure safety of its potential users.
10. This policy will be reviewed annually.