

Waldringfield

Parish Council



Policy for Children's Safety and Safeguarding at the Children's Playground.

**This policy was adopted at the meeting of Waldringfield Parish Council on
8th July 2021.**

1. The children's play area is provided by the Parish Council to promote the health, the fitness and the physical, social and emotional development of children. Surveys conducted by the council show that many villagers also value it as a place where families meet and share activities. It is also used by the Primary School which is directly opposite.
2. The Council has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to guard children from harm when using the playing field, taking into account the possible additional needs of those who are disabled or who may be particularly vulnerable.
3. Under the 1988 Children Act a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.
4. The Council does not supervise those attending. It expects all children using the playing field to do so, where their age and abilities make this appropriate, with the consent and supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.
5. The Primary School (or any other body that may use the playing field) is expected to supervise children appropriately.
6. In the interests of hygiene dogs are not permitted on the playing field.
7. The facilities provided involve challenges that involve elements of risk. They are inspected and maintained to mitigate the risks involved. Inspection is conducted on a regular basis, currently monthly by a councillor and at least annually by an external professional organisation. These inspections are recorded with the records shared with council members.
8. Minor maintenance is carried out by councillors and other volunteers with professional contractors brought in for more demanding tasks.
9. Any allegation, suspicion or incident of child abuse reported to the Council will be acted upon in accordance with the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership's procedures. The Council does not currently organise any events or activities for children. If it comes to do so, it will need to have in place further child protection arrangements.
10. Council Members are encouraged to visit the playing field when in the area and to submit any observations promptly to the Clerk and to their colleagues with particular playground responsibilities.
11. Any accident or complaint shall be recorded by the Clerk (whose contact details are displayed at the playing field entrances) and reported without delay to Members for decision and action.