

TREWERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL / CYNGOR CYMUNED TREWERN

Covid-19 Policy - Re-opening of Play Areas

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Government recently announced that Play Parks could be re-opened 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://gov.wales/reopening-childrens-playgrounds-and-outdoor-play-areas-coronavirus-html>

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 COVID-19, 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 in the context of all play areas, BMX tracks and skateboard parks.

Key Principle	Government Guidance	Assessment
Authority to reopen	Government guidance issued giving authority to re-open from the 20 th July 2020	Government guidance issued giving authority to re-open
Sector-specific advice	Government guidance reviewed and used as basis for this Risk Assessment	Government guidance to be regularly checked to ensure council is following most up to date guidance
Insurance		Contacted insurers who advised that a risk assessment will need to be carried out, as well as our regular weekly inspections which need to be logged.
Maintenance Issues following Lockdown	Ensure equipment is safe to use and that risks to from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	All Play Areas to be opened to be checked against the current RoSPA Annual Play Area Inspection Report. All essential repairs to be carried out before Play Area is opened.

<p>Ongoing maintenance / general condition of the site and equipment</p>		<p>TCC has a duty to ensure the site is safe for users. There is no on-site staff/management presence.</p> <p>Regular weekly play area inspections must have recommenced before site re-opens.</p> <p>Any equipment where safety concerns are identified to be taken out of use.</p>
<p>Social Distancing</p>	<p>Put in place measures to support social distancing – 2m plus risk mitigations. Examples given include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of users at any one time • Booking system (if possible) • Advisory signage • Create waiting areas with barriers if necessary. 	<p>Notices to be placed at all open Play Areas to advertise rules on social distancing (notice is attached for reference).</p> <p>Admittance numbers to each Play Area to be advertised based on one person per 12m² (this includes both children and parents).</p> <p>Given the fact that the Play areas are not manned, a booking system is not feasible. Other measures were considered but given the sites are unsupervised, it is not practical to take further measures. However, additional information will be posted on local websites and social media to highlight the importance of social distancing on the play equipment to local users.</p> <p>Users are also asked to contact TCC if any member of their household becomes ill following a visit to a site, so we can consider the possibility of temporarily closing the facility.</p>
<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<p>Clean high traffic touch points frequently. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Play Equipment 	<p>Notices to include instructions to parents to wipe children’s hands before and after use.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Where practicable, provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.</p>	<p>Regular cleaning of the play equipment is not possible, as each Councillor is volunteer and therefore has full time occupations and/or other commitments. Therefore, parents of the Children who use the play areas are again encouraged to wash their Childs hands before and after using the play equipment.</p> <p>No food or drink to be allowed in Play Areas.</p> <p>As the play areas are not manned, providing hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities is not feasible.</p>
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).</p>	<p>Face coverings are at present not mandatory in outdoor settings and it will be up to individual users to decide on their usage</p>
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 	<p>Notices to be placed at every Play Area to lay out parental responsibilities</p> <p>No food or drink to be allowed in Play Areas</p>

	gloves properly in litter bins, taking it home where a bin is not provided.	
Considering Children with Additional Needs	Take into account the requirements of children with additional needs.	Notices to be placed at every Play Area to lay out parental responsibilities
<p>Additional risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter • Site accessibility • Bullying • Sharp objects • Drugs and alcohol • Vehicles/cycles – risk to safety of users • Dogs – risk of aggression/from dog waste 		<p>Signage promotes responsible disposal of litter, the importance of patience and following footpaths/routes</p> <p>Signage advises that children should be supervised so the responsible adult can ensure children, including those with additional needs, follow guidelines</p> <p>Signs ask people to dispose of rubbish which includes food / drink waste</p>

Trewern Community Council adopted this Risk Management at its meeting on:

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Signed:.....Date:.....

Print Name:.....

Position:.....

Version No:.....

Review Date = Annual

Amended or Reviewed	Date	Version No	Who
Approved			