

## **PLAY EQUIPMENT POLICY**

### **Cringleford Parish Council**

The Council recognises that children may wish to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, the Parish Council aims to minimise risks.

Cringleford Parish Council supports:

- The value of play as essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth and for intellectual, educational and social development.
- Access to play spaces for all children regardless of ability or background.
- The opportunity for people of all ages to be able to share play spaces where possible.
- The creation of beautiful spaces that inspire, engage, challenge and are well cared for.
- The involvement of children, young people and other members of the local community in the design and management of play spaces.

The Council has developed a technical specification that will guide both the Parish Council and developers on existing and future installations (see appendix)

# PLAY EQUIPMENT POLICY

## Appendix

### Technical specification for Play Equipment

This specification details guidance for the Parish Council to use with Developers for existing, new or revised play areas.

The size of any plot would obviously determine what is practical, however, the following criteria should be applied irrespective of the size available. The amount or extent of the equipment to be installed will, to a large extent, be determined by the space available.

### Criteria

1. The play area shall be sited in a position which is suitable for its purpose and which may be reached in safety.
2. Any surrounding features which are likely to constitute a danger to children using the area shall be removed or protected by appropriate safety measures.
3. There should be a sign/notice saying the age range that the area is designed to cater for; e.g. 0-6 years of age; a sign/notice should say dogs are not allowed.
4. The whole space should be surrounded by a fence for safety.
5. The installation should comply with [BS EN 1176](#): [A series of standards for playground equipment, ensuring it meets safety and quality benchmarks]
6. The installation should comply with [BS EN 1177](#): [Covers the impact-absorbent properties of playground surfacing, crucial for preventing injuries from falls].
7. If the installation is aimed for older children/adults then it should comply with [BS EN 16630](#) for outdoor fitness equipment
8. The minimum size of a play area for younger children should aim to be at least 400 sq.m\*.
9. Larger areas are needed for older children and adults e.g. at least 900 sq.m\* ideally
10. A buffer zone of at least 10 meters should separate the activity zone from property boundaries, and a 20-meter separation from habitable rooms to minimise noise.

11. New play areas should be accessible and inclusive for children with disabilities.
12. The equipment should offer diverse opportunities for balancing, climbing, sliding, swinging, spinning, imaginative play, and social play.
13. Equipment should be scaled and designed for the specific developmental needs and challenges of the target age groups.
14. Seating for accompanying adults and siblings should be provided. The positioning and construction must comply to EN 1176.
15. At least one litterbin is required. The positioning and construction must comply to EN 1176.
16. A sign with the operator's name and contact details e.g. Cringleford Parish Council and email/phone number should be present.
17. The installer shall provide written confirmation that the equipment has been installed in accordance with the manufacturer or designer's instructions and to the relevant Standard where appropriate.
18. A post-installation inspection shall be carried out by RoSPA, NPFA or other appropriate body.
19. Appropriate insurance shall be taken out to protect users and any staff.
20. Developers should ensure that play areas managed by them should be checked weekly and equipment made safe as soon as possible.
21. Where the Parish Council manages play areas, there should be weekly internal checks, making sure that equipment is safe as soon as possible. There should be an annual external check.

### **List of types of play equipment preferred**

- Swings - both junior and more adult – traditional format
- Climbing frames with slides
- Spider web climbing units
- Roundabouts [those set level with the ground seem best]
- See saws – for twos and potentially multi person ones
- Sprung sit on toys [animals etc]
- Slides
- Wooden poles set in the ground to form a climbing/walkway

When considering new installations or adding to existing installations, equipment that provides for sensory focussed provision should be considered:  
e.g. Touch; Smell; Experience; Hearing

and thus, equipment could include

- [green] landscaping
- tunnels
- grasses
- raised beds
- sensory gardens
- water features
- audible features: musical equipment where children can play chimes / spin wheels of beads etc, wooden piano keys in the ground that make noise when trodden on
- small built in bounce equipment (similar to a trampoline) to allow one child to fit on at a time for safety

**Constraints on equipment to be chosen:**

The amount of wood should be kept to a minimum to reduce long term maintenance and replacement requirements

Boulders should be avoided

Sand should be avoided

Wherever practical equipment to be made of sustainable equipment

January 2026

\*Recommendations taken from ROSPA and Fields in Trust

<https://fieldsintrust.org/>

[RoSPA- Play Safety: Ensuring safe environments for children's play | RoSPA](#)