



**SHETTLESTON
HOUSING
ASSOCIATION**



Play Park Safety Policy

**Approved:
V.01 (Code: PS31)**

Our Vision, Mission Statement and Values

Shettleston's vision statement '*Thriving and prosperous local communities where all residents enjoy great homes and services, an attractive physical environment, and good life chances.* This statement is the foundation for Shettleston Housing Association's commitment to its residents and the communities they live in.

This commitment is also demonstrated in the Association's values which were agreed following discussions with the Board and staff. Shettleston's values are fundamental to how we carry out our day-to-day activities.

Our values are:

- **Customer service**
- **Make a difference in the community**
- **Teamwork**
- **Fairness**

Equality & Diversity Statement

The Association is intent on ensuring people or communities do not face discrimination or social exclusion due to any of the following protected characteristics: age; disability; sex; marriage & civil partnership; race; religion or belief; sexual orientation; gender reassignment; pregnancy & maternity.

This document complies with the Association's equality & diversity policy.

The Association will regularly review this document for equal opportunities implications and take the necessary action to address any inequalities that result from the implementation of the policy.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the regular safety checks and maintenance of any play parks within Shettleston Housing Association's responsibility. The Association attaches great importance to ensuring the safety of its tenants, their families, visitors, and the general public. This policy outlines how the Association will ensure appropriate control measures are in place to prevent any issues with its play parks.

The Association has a duty of care to ensure that its properties are safe for use and, where play park issues are identified, they are properly managed to ensure repairs and maintenance are carried out effectively.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The aim of this Policy is to ensure the effective inspection, maintenance and management of all play parks controlled by Shettleston Housing Association.

The procedures detailed within this section are intended to facilitate the effective management of play parks, ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to comply with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Children Act (1989) Scotland, and all other relevant pieces of legislation.

A number of these are listed below :-

- BS EN 1176
- BS EN 1177:2018
- Children Act (1989) Scotland
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995,
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- The Children Act (Scotland) 1995
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

3. Definitions

3.1 Competent Person – *“a person, suitably trained and qualified by knowledge of the safety, inspection and maintenance of play park areas and equipment.”*

Hazard – *“something which has the potential to cause harm.”*

Risk – *“the chance or probability that a person will be harmed or experience an adverse health effect if exposed to a hazard.”*

4. Risk Assessments

- 4.1** A risk assessment programme will be undertaken, and reviewed regularly, to identify and assess potential hazards within play park and children's recreational areas. The assessment will also be reviewed when new equipment is installed or if there are any changes to the layout of the park.
- 4.2** An assessment will also be carried out to assess the suitability for use by disabled persons.
- 4.3** Risk assessments will be carried out by a competent person who has the suitable knowledge and who has attended a RoSPA training course (or equivalent) on the principles of Risk Assessment concerning children's play parks.
- 4.4** If any defects are identified the Housing Association will use a competent external contractor to carry out the repairs immediately.

5. New Equipment

- 5.1** All new playground equipment will adhere to the current British Standard, BS EN 1176.

6. Inspections

Post Installation

- 6.1** A post installation inspection will be carried out by an independent inspector (such as a member of RoSPA) to identify any defects with the installation of equipment or surfacing. Upon successful inspection, the facility will be formally 'approved' in writing as suitable for use and compliant with all relevant requirements.

Routine Inspections

- 6.2** Routine inspections will be carried out and recorded at least weekly by a member of staff of the Housing Association or its contractor. Inspections will include:
 - Visually checking the equipment for any obvious faults or hazards that can be a danger to children, parents or carers
 - Ensuring the safety surface and surrounding areas are free from debris which could cause injury or be a hazard to health or the environment, for example - litter, glass, or animal fouling.
- 6.3** Staff carrying out routine inspections will have attended a 1 day "Routine Inspections and Maintenance" course applicable to play parks.
- 6.4** If members of staff identifies animal faeces in the play park it will be disposed of correctly using dog bags and dog/litter bins.

Maintenance Inspections

6.5 Maintenance inspections and servicing will be carried out every 3 months. These will include:

- All aspects of routine inspection
- Checking that fixings are secure
- Lubrication of bearings
- Touching-in any scratches to paintwork using the appropriate paint
- repairing safety surfaces and other elements that form the rest of the site

Those carrying out maintenance inspections and servicing will have a Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) qualification (or equivalent).

Annual Inspections

6.6 An overall inspection of all aspects of the site will be carried out annually by an independent inspector (such as a member of RoSPA) to ensure all legal requirements are met. Records will be maintained of the inspection.

Retaining Records

6.7 All inspections will be accurately recorded and retained in the Association's central database for 3 years.

Remedial Action

6.8 Where any inspection identifies failures or other issues that could result in the facility presenting a risk to users, the facility will be put out of action without delay; appropriately secured and sign-posted; and remedial action arranged. Any remedial action will be formally recorded, and the facility re-inspected prior to being re-opened.

7. Protective Surfacing

7.1 The Association will use appropriate protective surfacing in play parks (such as grass and wood chips) to reduce the severity of injury from falls.

7.2 Routine inspections will identify any hazards associated with the surfacing and repairs will be carried out by a competent person immediately.

8. Fencing and Gates

8.1 All play parks under the Association's control will be enclosed by a fence at least 1 meter high. All gates will be a minimum width of 1 meter to allow access for wheelchairs and push chairs. Self-closing mechanisms will be used to maintain the gate in a closed position.

8.2 The Association will ensure that there is adequate access for the emergency services.

9. Security

9.1 The Association recognises the importance of security measures in play parks. Adequate lighting will be provided to prevent accidents and to increase the safety of users. If the play park is subject to high levels of vandalism, the Association may install CCTV to monitor and deter this.

10. Use of Chemicals

10.1 The Association will aim to use non-chemical methods (such as hand weeding), where appropriate, for the treatment of weeds and algae. When the use of chemicals cannot be avoided users will be clearly notified that chemicals have been used in the area.

11. Dogs in Play Parks

11.1 The Association recognises that dogs may be present in parks. However, “no dogs allowed signs” will be clearly displayed on the entrance to the enclosed play area containing the play equipment.

11.2 “No dog fouling” signs will be clearly displayed around the park.

11.3 Dog bins will be provided in all play parks under the Association’s control.

11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if there is a requirement to do so following guidance/procedures received by regulatory bodies, etc.

12. Play Park Locations

Currently the Association only has one play park within its ownership in the rear court area surrounded by 590 & 592 Old Shettleston Road, 7 & 9 Fenella Street and 1251, 1253 and 1255 Shettleston Road. – collectively known as the Fenella complex.