

Les Landes School Playframe Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

Our school playground provides opportunities for pupils to engage in active play in addition to experiencing quiet and environmental areas. The site is open to allow out of school use by children from the local community.

Opportunities for balancing, climbing, hanging and swinging are planned both within the physical education curriculum and during play / lunch breaks outside.

2. SAFE USE OF EQUIPMENT

2.1 Supervision

Children must be supervised at all times whilst using outdoor play equipment, risk assessments have been conducted to determine the appropriate number of people required to supervise play areas (this should take into account observation points, line of sight etc.)

Supervising staff should be familiar with the equipment, the rules for use and of the ability of the children.

2.2 General guidelines

The school follows the following guidelines:

- The pupils (and supervising staff) should be educated about the use of climbing equipment.
- Staff/supervisors on duty must ensure that outdoor play equipment is visible and can be appropriately supervised when in use.
- Staff/supervisors on duty have a responsibility to make regular checks for defects and report them as appropriate.
- Consideration should be given to a rota for use, taking into consideration the age and number of children using it at any one time.
- Staff/supervisors have a responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviour policy

- Consideration needs to be given to weather conditions, outdoor play equipment should not be used during wet or icy conditions.
- Where equipment is sited on grassed areas it should be kept out of use in wet weather and for appropriate length of time afterward to allow ground to be sufficiently dry.
- Apparatus must only be used at appropriate times when supervised. Parents need to be informed that the apparatus is for school aged children only and not to be used before and after school unless supervised by them.

2.3 Clothing/Footwear

Suitable clothing should be worn. Hazards can arise from - unfastened coats, woollen gloves, scarves, ties, etc.

Appropriate footwear must be worn. Hazards arise from - slippery soles, open toed and sling back sandals, heels and untied laces, etc.

2.4 Zoning of Activities

Consideration should be given to the range of activities occurring within the playground area;

- Ball games should be sited away from the climbing area and away from windows and parked cars.

3 PLAY EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

- 3.1 All **new** outdoor play equipment must be designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with European standards BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177.
- 3.2 These European standards are not retrospective or a legal requirement but represent good practice in the event of an accident claim. Play equipment which was considered safe under BS 5696 will still be safe under the new standards.
- 3.3 The independent competent person carrying out annual inspection (advised by Education Department and Jersey Property Holdings) and maintenance will advise whether any alterations need to be made.

3.4 Structures must be spaced clear of each other to prevent one activity interfering with another, they must also be clear of walls, fences etc.

4.0 SAFETY SURFACES

4.1 All products must meet the appropriate BS EN Standards. Both portable and fixed climbing equipment that has a fall height of 600mm must be on an impact-absorbing surface if used outside. (Fall height is the distance from the clearly intended body support to the impact area)

4.2 Although impact absorbing surfaces cannot prevent accidents they may reduce the level of injury. There are a range of surfaces available which provide impact attenuation including rubber mats and tiles, bark etc.

4.3 The extent of surfacing around static equipment is dependent on the fall height, this should extend at least 1.75M beyond the outermost points of the base of the frame.

4.4 When considering so called safety surfaces their likely effectiveness, durability, practicality and management should be taken into account. The type of surface under play equipment is just one of the design elements in a successful play area.

4.5 Materials such as top soil and turf do have limited impact absorbing properties.

4.6 Where bark is used this area should be a minimum of 300mm deep with a recommended particle size of 38mm max and 12mm min. Loose materials will spread if not suitably contained and will need to be topped up from time to time, thus it is important to have additional bark available to top up to the original level.

5.0 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

5.1 For new equipment a post installation inspection must be arranged (Education Department and JPH to advise school)

5.2 BS EN 1176 recommends that all outdoor play equipment be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Such inspection and maintenance is at 3 levels.

5.2.1 Level 1 checks - Daily / pre use checks by staff (these do not require formal recording)

Concentrating on the following points:

- No evidence of obvious wear / damage
- Area safe from health hazards e.g. needles, glass, faeces etc.
- Impact absorbing surfaces no cuts, tears, wear or unstuck areas
- All fastening tightly secured
- No broken chains, stretched links or loose or twisted shackles
- Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground

Where any defects / hazards are identified appropriate steps must be taken to prevent use until problems have been satisfactorily resolved.

5.2.2 Level 2 checks - termly inspection in house by caretaker

A more thorough check of the equipment to be conducted termly (see Appendix 1) and these records kept on site.

5.2.3 Level 3 checks - annual inspection

A detailed certified inspection by an independent competent person capable of inspecting to BS EN 1176 and 1177 these checks must be formally recorded and records kept on site.

Such checks ensure safety and identifies any improvements required in terms of the European standards

The competent person conducting the annual inspection will advise on the extent of surfacing required for both static and moving equipment

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years as a minimum. It is next due for review in January 2020.

OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT TERMLY SAFETY CHECKLIST

SCHOOL NAME..... AREA INSPECTED.....

DATE INSPECTED.....INSPECTED BY.....SIGNATURE.....

ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT CHECKED	
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

FEATURE	CHECK FOR	SATISFACTORY			COMMENTS / ACTIONS NEEDED
		Y	N	N/A	
STRUCTURE	Cracking, breaking, warping, loosening and bending				
SURFACE FINISH	Protective coating missing, rust, cracks, splinters				
CONSUMABLE ITEMS E.G. ROPES, CHAINS	Missing, bent, broken, loosened, worn, open hooks				
EDGES	Protrusions, sharp edges				
PINCH OR CRUSH POINTS	Exposed mechanisms, joints or moving components				
MOVING PARTS	Worn, lack of lubrication, seizure or excessive motion				
GUARDS / HAND RAILS / SWING BARRIERS	Missing, bent, broken, loosened				
ACCESS	Missing or broken rungs, steps or treads etc.				
SWING AND OTHER SEATS	Missing, damaged, loosened etc.				
IMPACT ABSORBING SURFACES	Ineffective by being compacted, displaced or not extensive enough to cover possible impact area				

FOUNDATIONS	Cracked, loose in ground exposed				
OTHER ITEMS SPECIFIC TO OUR SCHOOL					