

# Malpas Recreation Ground

## Notice to all Malpas Recreation Ground Users.

### **Re-opening:**

The Children's play area on the Malpas Recreation Ground has now been re-opened. This follows the annual safety inspection of the play equipment by a certificated Safety Inspector.

### **Social distancing:**

Social distancing aims to reduce social interaction between people to minimise the opportunity for transmission of COVID-19.

The open space afforded by the play area allows social distancing of 2 metres to be maintained and it is expected that users of the play equipment will adhere to this distance in accordance with existing government guidance.

It is acknowledged that social distancing can be particularly difficult for adults and children with certain conditions, and between individuals and households.

The Recreation Ground trust therefore remind parents, guardians and carers, it is their responsibility to take any necessary precautions to mitigate against any residual risk that may exist.

### **Potential measures to assist with social distancing:**

- Only have 1 family member accompanying a child when using the play area.
- Consider the overall time spent on the play equipment.

### **Areas of risk:**

- Slides
- Enclosed crawl through 'tunnels'
- Entry and exit points such as gates
- Seating areas such as shelters, benches and picnic tables
- Refuse areas/bins
- Clear touch points such as swings, see saws, machine handles

### **Cleaning:**

Scientific advice suggests that the virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces, particularly when indoors. These risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain.

However the virus could survive long enough on frequently used/touched outdoor surfaces to facilitate transmission.

No cleaning of the play equipment will be undertaken by the trust, and it is the responsibility of parents, carers, guardians, and equipment users to follow the government guidelines on personal sanitation.

## **Do's:**

Users, parents, guardians and carers, are strongly **recommended to:**

- Bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands.
- To clean the play equipment before and after use.
- Wash/sanitise hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and water or approved gel and foam sanitiser, particularly at the beginning and end of play.
- Always be aware of the need for social distancing.
- Dispose of all litter including any used protective wear such as face coverings or gloves properly in litter bins, or take it home where a bin is not provided. Disposable face coverings and gloves cannot be recycled

## **Don'ts:**

Users, parents, guardians and carers, are strongly **recommended not to:**

- Touch their faces, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm when a tissue is not available.
- To put their mouths on equipment or their hands in their mouths.
- Consume food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area.

## **Face coverings:**

The government has produced guidance on [Staying safe outside your home](#) that includes rules and recommendations on the use of face coverings.

Face coverings are optional for all those with disabilities or health conditions for whom it is problematic, on public transport and elsewhere.

Parents should be aware that wearing a face covering in a playground setting could pose an additional safety risk and should use their judgement on whether their children wear a face covering.

It is important to use face coverings properly and users should wash their hands before putting them on and taking them off.

## **Considering children with additional needs:**

Users, parents, guardians and carers are asked to be aware that:

- Frequent reminders about rules of behaviour in playground settings will be required.
- Changes to familiar environments are likely to require longer periods of adjustment.
- Children with physical and sensory disabilities may need assistance with moving from one place to the next.

- Some children with additional needs such as autism find it difficult to adjust to particular clothing requirements, and therefore may be less willing to use face coverings or similar if requested.
- Some additional needs are not evident, such as hearing loss, and may therefore account for non-responsiveness to verbal instruction.
- Queuing for apparatus or toilets can be a source of frustration, and the cause of agitation.
- Higher risk of being involved in bullying incidents

All users of and visitors to the Recreation Ground are reminded that they are expected to behave in a responsible and courteous manner to the area and other users.

**Everyone is reminded that the use of the site and the playground equipment is done at your own risk.**