

Dorchester Parish Council Risk Assessment – Children’s Playground – June 2025

	Area	Risk/Hazard	Risk	Impact	Mitigation
P1	Playground Equipment Swings Inc Junior. Carousel. Rope Netting. Climber Rota Web. Wooden Boat. Rocker seesaw. Multiplay toddler Rocker Snail Rocker Wobble Board. Play Panels.	Loose equipment	M	Personal injury Cuts/abrasions Muscular, skeletal & other physical injuries	- All equipment installed by qualified contractor ROSPA check annually and remedial action undertaken by PC for any material risks - Sovereign (installer) check 6 monthly and remedial action undertaken by PC for any material risks - Councillor rota to review equipment against checklist checked as part on monthly safety check and remedial action undertaken where necessary
P2	Playground Surfaces.	Uneven surfaces,slips, trips, falls.	L	Personal injury As above.	- Grass cut by contractors monthly - Grass and artificial surfaces checked as part on monthly safety check and remedial action undertaken where necessary
P3	Specialist equipment – disabled swing		M	Personal injury	- Disabled swing and components checked as part on monthly safety check and remedial action undertaken where necessary - Disabled swing locked in accordance with manufacturer design to ensure only used by relevant users - Users to be supervised by responsible adult
P4	Fencing Mesh	Minor Injuries, cuts, abbrasions	L	Personal injury	- Fencing integrity and checked as part on monthly safety check and remedial action undertaken where necessary - Gates closure checked as part on monthly safety check and remedial action undertaken where necessary

P5	Gates	Minor injury, cuts, abrasions, fingers caught.	L	Personal injury	Gate integrity,monthly check.
	Litter Bin	Ingestion of items from bin	L	Health impact Infection risk.	Contractor weekly empties. Integrity monthly check.
	Seating Benches	Falling, tripping.	L	Personal injury	Monthly check.
	Dog fouling	Hygiene, infection toxicariasis	L	Health impact Infection risk	Notice advising owners to control dogs and deal with anything necessary
	Litter/glass/needles.	Injuries, cuts abrasions. Needle injury, bloodborne viruses.	L	Personal injury Infection risk	Users encouraged to use litter bin. Monthly check.

Risks are calculated in this way:

1. An assessment of the likelihood of harm taking place is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Rare
 - b. 2 = Unlikely
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Likely
 - e. 5 = Certain
2. An assessment of the severity of the injury sustained is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Insignificant
 - b. 2 = Minor
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Major
 - e. 5 = Catastrophic
3. The two numbers are multiplied to give a risk score on a scale of 1 to 25.
4. Scores of 1 to 7 inclusive are considered to be low risk and are considered to be tolerable where this is the innate risk of the item, but where remedial works are identified these should be undertaken,
5. Scores of 8 to 12 are considered to be medium risk and some control measures may be identified to reduce the risks to low, tolerable levels,
6. Score of 13 and above are considered to be high risk and urgent action is considered to be necessary to reduce the risks to tolerable levels.

It is important to note that where an outcome is catastrophic, but for which the likelihood is rare this will present a score of $1 \times 5 = 5$ = low risk. Similarly, a certain event for which the consequence is insignificant will present a score of $5 \times 1 = 5$ = low risk. It is important to consider likelihood and consequence, and not just one of the factors in isolation.

The multiplication of the factors into a risk matrix is given here in Table 1, with a judgement made as to risk scoring indicated by colour.

Green = LOW risk, Amber = MEDIUM risk, Red = HIGH risk.

Table 1.

	Severity					
Likelihood		1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
	1 = Rare	1 LOW	2 LOW	3 LOW	4 LOW	5 LOW
	2 = Unlikely	2 LOW	4 LOW	6 LOW	8 MEDIUM	10 MEDIUM
	3 = Moderate	3 LOW	6 LOW	9 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	15 HIGH
	4 = Likely	4 LOW	8 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	16 HIGH	20 HIGH
	5 = Certain	5 LOW	10 MEDIUM	15 HIGH	20 HIGH	25 HIGH

Date Approved – 16 th July 2025 Minute Ref. FC37/25.26	Comments