

# Play Policy

Skeeby Parish council recognises that children's play is a vital ingredient in their development and subscribes to the principles set out in The Charter for Children's Play. The Charter sets out the abiding principles on which the play sector is founded, and encompasses the notion that Play is the fundamental way that children enjoy their childhood. It is essential to their quality of life as children.

*Playing is integral to children's enjoyment of their lives, their health and their development. Children and young people – disabled and non-disabled – whatever their age, culture, ethnicity or social and economic background, need and want to play, indoors and out, in whatever way they can. Through playing, children are creating their own culture, developing their abilities, exploring their creativity and learning about themselves, other people and the world around them. [Play England, Charter for Children's Play]*

The removal of risk in children's play provision is neither practical nor desirable. There is a very real need for children and young people to learn to manage risk; they cannot do this if they are shielded from it.

*Children need and want to stretch and challenge themselves when they play. Play provision and play space that is stimulating and exciting allows children to encounter and learn about risk. This helps them to build confidence, learn skills and develop resilience at their own pace. [Play England, Charter for Children's Play]*

The Charter for Children's Play considers that:

- Playing is fun: it is how children enjoy themselves.
- Play promotes children's development, learning, imagination, creativity and independence.
- Play can help to keep children healthy and active.
- Play allows children to experience and encounter boundaries, learning to assess and manage risk in their lives; both physical and social.
- Play helps children to understand the people and places in their lives, learn about their environment and develop their sense of community.
- Play allows children to find out about themselves, their abilities, their interests and the contribution they can make.
- Play can be therapeutic. It helps children to deal with difficult or painful circumstances such as emotional stress or medical treatment.
- Play can be a way of building and maintaining important relationships with friends, carers and family members.

The Parish Council, as a provider of play facilities, seeks to balance the advantages of children's play against the inherent risks, and maintain these facilities in such a way as to minimise any unnecessary risks. Equipment and the play environment will be regularly inspected, both by the providers and, periodically, by suitably qualified external advisors.