

## **Community Play and Sports Areas in the School Field**

Dear Parents, carers, local residents and users of the school field,

The Parish Council was delighted that, after several years of searching for a suitable site, the play and sport project came to fruition in November 2011 through cooperation with the School and the Community Trust. We are sure you will agree that providing access for the local children is an excellent example of the community working together to help resolve the shortage of sport and play opportunities.

The completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the project followed public meetings and discussions of young people's expectations during the summer of 2010 and subsequent discussions with neighbours in 2011. Funding came from the County Council Developers Fund, a Community Chest grant and County Councillor, Colin Horncastle's small schemes fund. As part of the agreement between the School, the Parish Council (PC) and the funders, the PC has a duty to look after the facility for all members of our community, and visitors, to enjoy and use outside school hours. The PC pays for insurance, grounds maintenance around the equipment, the annual inspection and a weekly inspection by qualified staff to ensure the safety of everyone using the equipment.

The facility is close to 'Before and After School Childcare' the Nursery, the School and neighbours' houses and it is therefore essential that the children and parents and carers that use it, those responsible for its supervision and maintenance, and all members of the community play a part in keeping it clean and safe and ensuring that the privacy and property of neighbours and the school are respected.

Phase 3 of the project was completed in July 2013 therefore with input from the school, the PC, the Community Trust and the West Tynedale Neighbourhood Police Team we have updated the following guidelines for use of the play and sport area (see overleaf).

Slaley Parish Council. September 2020

## **The agreement for use of the school field**

Children have a right to play, and they need opportunities for physical exercise and interaction with other youngsters. However, everyone has a right to enjoy their home and workplace peacefully and know that their property is safe.

The following agreement and simple guidelines should ensure that the play and sport facilities can be enjoyed by all users, without disturbance to others.

- \* The Parish Council and the School will ensure that the facility is regularly inspected and kept in good condition.
- \* Parents and carers will be responsible for their children when they are in the school grounds and the play area.
- \* Users of the facilities will abide by the following commonsense rules.
- \* The school grounds should be left as children found them moving school equipment and furniture should be avoided.

**The facilities are closed from 7.30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 7.30 a.m. – 3.15 p.m. on Fridays during school time. The facilities will be open at all times during weekends and school holidays, until dusk (when the village street lights come on).**

**During the Coronavirus pandemic there may be changes to this community agreement watch local notices for changes.**

**Only the school field to be used for ball games** – there is restricted entry for very young children to the enclosed nursery play area and the school and the walls of these buildings must not be used for ball games.

**Responsibility of children lies solely with parents and carers.**

It is their responsibility to ensure that children arrive at and leave the field safely. Slaley First School can take no responsibility for any child using the field.

**Please respect other residents' right to peace and a safe environment.**

The school playing field is surrounded by private houses. Owners expect you to have fun and cause some noise, but bad language is not acceptable and its continued use will involve loss of privileges

**Cycling on the school field** will result in loss of privileges.

**Tennis Posts and net.** The posts and net will be stored in the wooden storage unit next to the wooden sheds. Please return them to the storage unit when not in use.

**Outdoor Table Tennis.** The \* net and bats are stored in the wooden storage unit next to the wooden sheds. Please return them to the storage unit when not in use. \* **Not available during Coronavirus**

**Storage Box.** The storage unit will not be locked and we hope that the community will appreciate this facility and not abuse its use.

**For the protection of users, no pets/animals must be allowed on the site.**

**Please take litter home.**

**Please report any damage, graffiti or other signs of misuse** to one of the people listed below.

Catherine Lincoln      Tel: 0791 812 0125  
Steve Carson            Tel: 07757 686373

In case of serious vandalism or misbehaviour you should inform the Police on 101. You may need the postcode for Slaley First School, which is NE47 0AA.