



MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL – PLAY AREA & PARKS POLICY

Adopted: November 2025

Review Date: November 2027

Purpose of this Policy:

This play policy has been developed for the provision, maintenance and development of play areas owned and managed by Millom Town Council.

The United Nations convention of the rights of a child states:

- Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood
- Play is a vital component of growing up
- Play is how children develop skills, physical, social and intellectual
- Play provides children with opportunities to test out themselves and others
- Play gives children opportunities to practice and prepare for the outdoor world
- Children should have full opportunity for play and recreation, and society and public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.

Policy Statements:

1. To provide where possible, conventional play areas, environmental play areas and community play activities to provide every opportunity to play

Conventional – Traditional play areas with the five modes of play

Environmental – play area featuring natural elements that feel integrated with the outdoor landscape

Community – provide children the opportunity to practice and hone key skills including social, emotional, cognitive and physical

2. Ensure the play area facilities owned by Millom Town Council comply with the appropriate British Standards to minimise the risk of accidents and help provide a safer environment for children to enjoy play.
3. To ensure all children within the parish of Millom and Haverigg have a play area within a reasonable distance for a child to walk.
4. Millom Town Council will consider provision of specialist play facilities for the Millom and Haverigg Parish areas as a whole, where possible. Millom Town

Council will consider taking responsibility for play facilities of all kinds where they meet our standards, and the owner wishes to transfer them to us.

5. Consideration will be made in ensuring safer routes to play areas are available when considering locations.
6. Monitor, assess and review design and installation of the play area. Investigate and take note of any new research into the safety standards regarding play areas. Accidents in play areas arise from many causes including but not limited to:
 - Inappropriate design and layout
 - Incorrectly installed equipment
 - Inadequately installed equipment
 - Lack of age and ability related equipment
 - Lack of supervision
 - Aggressive and dangerous use of equipment
 - Misuse of equipment
 - Unsuitable clothing worn
7. Carry out routine weekly inspections as well as a fully documented certified 12-month inspection completed by an independent inspector. Sites should be visually inspected regularly by the nominated person or persons for superficial defects and faults to equipment in addition to general cleanliness and removal of dangerous objects. The documented inspections shall be carried out in accordance with current legislation by trained inspectors.
8. Monitor safety by keeping a central record of all reported injuries and serious incidents on Millom Town Council owned play areas. This information can be taken into account when updating and installing new play equipment.
9. Carefully consider the implications for access to, and experience of play opportunities when dealing with planning applications relating to new developments. Environmental play is of the most valuable and natural form of play and children should be given the opportunity to challenge and manipulate their environment.
10. Provide opportunities for informal play including informal sporting play in our municipal parks and open spaces.
11. Consultation with the general public in particular school children and parents to take into account their needs when replacing, updating or installing new play equipment or areas. Conventional play areas should aim to have all 5-modes of play available – namely swing, rocker, rotor, agility and slide

(Appendix I). Parents and schools can be a valuable source of information when considering this equipment.

12. Formulate a forward plan and update and amend as necessary and as any new legislation or standards dictate. This will take into account of all information gained from consultation with the local community and any accidents/incidents reported.
13. Endeavour to introduce more play provision for children with disabilities as standard. Disabled children should have access to a play environment which allows them the same opportunity for recreation and play as able-bodied children. They should be given the opportunity to mix with able bodied children and where possible have the use of suitable play equipment.
14. Assist in making parents aware of their responsibility to children and seek their help to provide a safe environment in which they can play. This will be achieved by the provision of literature and signage.
15. Design and build play parks that are more environmentally friendly by using more recycled materials for equipment and working with suppliers who are actively looking to reduce their carbon footprint.
16. Designate all play areas as dog free zones to provide an area that is free from dog faeces as is practicable under part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or other appropriate powers (see Appendix II)
17. Maintain a site register for the play area which contains:
 - A copy of this policy
 - A site plan
 - Full equipment details
 - Documentation of ownership of the stie
 - Inspection, maintenance and any future development plans
 - Details of reported accidents and serious incidents

Summary:

This play policy is designed to take account of all statutory requirements in addition to this the Council's commitment to provide safe formal play areas and environmental play opportunities within the confines of its budget facilities.

Millom Town Council understands and acknowledges the need to:

- Consult and liaise with parents, children and schools before purchasing any new play equipment thereby ensuring the type of equipment will be enjoyed by and put to its maximum potential use

- Educate parents/guardians to be aware of their responsibility in play areas
- Provide more play equipment for disabled children and bear this in mind when considering the purchase of new play equipment
- Install signs in prominent positions stating that play areas are dog free zones
- Update or replace old and defective equipment
- Recognise the expected life of existing equipment and create a replacement plan
- Maintain a site register and ensure it is kept up to date
- Ensure inspections are carried out as set out in policy statement no. 4
- Millom Town Council will take responsibility of play areas of all kinds provided by others where they meet our standards, and the owners want to transfer them to us.

Signed: Chair Dated: 26th November 2025

Appendix I: Visual Examples of 5-Modes of Play Equipment

Swing:

A classic piece of playground equipment that helps develop balance and



coordination while offering fun and relaxation

Agility:

Agility equipment includes climbing frames, nets and obstacle structures that



challenge physical strength and coordination

Rocker:

Rocker equipment allows children to enjoy a rocking motion, often designed for



multiple users to promote social interaction

Slide:

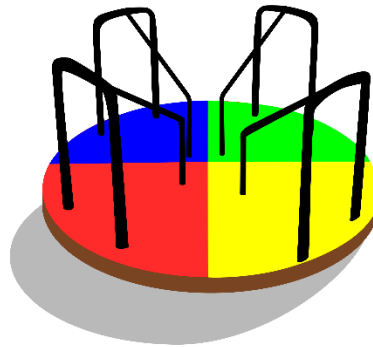
Slides come in various forms – straight, spiral, tunnel – and are essential for fun



and physical development

Rotor:

Rotors include merry-go-rounds and spinning platforms that help children develop



balance and spatial awareness.

Appendix II: Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part IV:

Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 outlines the responsibilities of local authorities in maintaining public cleanliness and managing litter, including dog fouling. It designates principal litter authorities such as county, district, and borough councils, and defines 'relevant land' as areas accessible to the public under the control of these authorities.

Under Section 87, it is an offence to throw down, drop, or otherwise deposit litter (including dog faeces) in public places and leave it. This applies to any area open to the air and accessible to the public, including parks and highways.

Local authorities are empowered to enforce these provisions through Dog Control Orders, which may include:

- Fouling of Land by Dogs Order: Offence of failing to remove dog faeces.
- Dog on Lead Order: Requirement to keep dogs on leads.
- Dog Exclusion Order: Prohibition of dogs from designated areas.
- Specified Maximum Order: Limiting the number of dogs per handler.

Penalties for offences include fines up to £1000 in Magistrates Court or Fixed Penalty Notices typically set at £75. These measures aim to reduce health risks such as toxocariasis and maintain clean, safe environments for public use.

Millom Town Council designates all play areas as dog-free zones under this legislation to ensure children have access to clean and safe recreational spaces.