Deborah Gundle

Fair Play Barnet Accessible and Inclusive Playground for children and Adults

Key Takeaways

- Everyone has the right to play.
- All playgrounds should be accessible and can be at no or little extra cost.
- Inclusion is important for healthy society.
- Designing for accessibility is easy!
- Equipment suppliers want to make playgrounds accessible.

Everyone has the right to play

- Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) creates a specific right for all children to engage in play and recreational activities.
- The governments disability action plan has a specific section on playgrounds. The plan uses Fair Play playground as a model.

Why is this important?

- 24 % percent of our population is disabled .
- Siblings are unable to play together.
- People with disabilities are mostly isolated.
- Playgrounds have significant health, fitness and well being benefits.
- Disability ‘price tag’ cost of living extra £975 per month (Scope Charity)
- Lets even the playing field!

Inclusion is important for a healthy society.

- Stigma- play removes social barriers
- Society can tap into a broader range of **talents** and perspectives leading to innovation and social progress – everyone has something to contribute

FAIR PLAY BARNET – OPEN TO ALL!
VICTORIA RECREATION GROUND – LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
Designing for accessibility is easy!
KOMPAN
Let's play

Designing for accessibility is easy!

- Wetpour safety surfacing to ensure wheelchair accessibility.
- Flat landscape to give clear sightlines for carers.
- Textured path for the visually impaired.
- Single entrance/exit to prevent users leaving without their carer's knowledge.
- Accessible equipment for wheelchair users and people who need support.
- Inclusive equipment allowing children of all abilities to play alongside one another.
- Equipment that enables rocking, swinging, spinning, climbing and sliding.
- Sensory activity panels for touch, movement and sound.
- Customised communications boards for non – verbal people, people who don't speak the same language or have dementia, placed strategically around the playground at various heights.
- Quiet spots for downtime
- Slightly raised heights of equipment for teenagers and adults
- Picnic tables with seating spaces for multiple wheelchairs for family and friends to sit together
- Disabled toilet
- Toilet facility with changing bed.
- Easy access to local transport buses and trains
- Disabled parking
- Proximity to a café

FAQs

- Fair Play can be replicated in whole or in part.
- Existing playgrounds can be made more accessible by refurbishing piece by piece.
- Cost to maintain is minimally more. It is agreed that it’s a small amount to pay for the benefits.

Equipment suppliers want to make playgrounds accessible, they just need to be asked.

Impact
You Can Make

Lots of SEN families coming from near and far 🚗🚌🚊

SEN adults coming who used to just sit in the cafe, coming regularly, having fun and socialising 🙌

Parents coming for their children but also coming to meet other parents with similar experiences 🤜🤛

Lots of inclusive play 👍

Children of all abilities making games up using the picture symbol communication boards 👍

Parents talking to their children about diversity and disability ✌️

Community groups holding meet ups in the playground 👍

“ Yesterday all playgrounds were great, today only this one is. ”

Adam S

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Let’s make Fair Play one of many!