



**CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL
POLICY INFLATABLES AND
SOFT PLAY
2022**

CHARVIL PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY FOR THE USE OF INFLATABLES / BOUNCY CASTLES AND SOFT PLAY EQUIPMENT

Government statistics indicate that every year there are a large number of accidents resulting in injuries to adults and children arising from the use of inflatables including bouncy castles and soft play equipment within the UK. This policy and guidance note is aimed at anyone organising an event on Charvil Parish Council premises, where inflatables will be present and provides helpful tips to ensure that the event is both enjoyable and safe.

1. Introduction

The use of Inflatable play equipment (e.g. bouncy castles) may be organised as part of an event. This can range from an event with a single bouncy castle to those with several inflatables on site. If the inflatable play equipment is not well managed and supervised, there is a high risk of serious injuries, especially from individuals bouncing off the inflatable onto the ground, knocking into other objects and people, or by falling awkwardly. Accidents may also be caused because many inflatables are designed for use by children rather than adults.

This policy and guidance note is aimed at anyone organising an event where inflatables will be present and provides helpful tips to ensure that the event is both enjoyable and safe.

The sections below outline control measures that should be considered when planning an event which includes inflatable play equipment.

2. Before Hiring

The equipment should be hired from reputable hire companies, and where possible, set up, operated and supervised by the hire company's own staff. This is particularly important if substantial numbers of children are likely to be present.

Before hiring a bouncy castle, ensure that you have checked the following:

- Is the operator conforming to the PIPA Scheme?
- Has the inflatable a PIPA tag?
- When was the equipment last fully inspected?
- Can you have a copy of the current PIPA test certificate for this equipment?
- Have they carried out the daily checks on the equipment as required by EIS7?
- Will you get full instructions on its SAFE operation?
- If it is set up, with the blower unit 1.2 metres distance consider will the bouncy castle still fit in the desired location on the site?
- Is the equipment clearly marked as to its limitation of use (max number of users, height etc.)?
- Do they have £5 million Pound Liability Insurance?
- Who will be responsible for supervising the use of the inflatable and are they trained?
- Is there sufficient time for the equipment to be delivered, set up and cleared away and removed from site within your hire period.
- Ensure the equipment does not exceed the 14 feet height restriction inside the building.

3. Self-Operation

If you are to operate the bouncy castle, ensure that you are provided with written instructions about the safe setting up, operation and supervision of the equipment and that the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier is clearly marked upon it.

- You will need to obtain **Public Liability Insurance**, minimum cover of £5 million Pounds. A copy must be made available to the Charvil Parish Council before the event if requested.
- Full Responsibility for the setup, operation and supervision and dismantling of the bouncy castle will remain with the hirer of the Charvil Parish Council premises or grounds used for the event.
- Ensure a minimum of two adults are available to carry out continuous supervision.
- Do you have **first aid cover** in place in the event of an accident?

Further guidance on the British Standard and law relating to inflatable play equipment is available on the PIPA inflatable Play Inspection Scheme website. <https://www.pipa.org.uk>

4. Risk assessment

You will need to carry out a risk assessment for your event to ensure that any hazards have been identified and suitable control measures are in place. Charvil Parish Council may request a copy of the assessment prior to the booking taking place. The main hazards associated with using inflatables (including bouncy castles) are listed below and details of effective control measures are outlined in section 5.

- Instability and blowing away in windy conditions.
- Falls from the structure.
- Tripping (particularly over anchorages).
- Injury to users caused by boisterous behaviour, or overcrowding.
- Access to dangerous parts of machinery (e.g. inadequately protected or unguarded blower units).
- Electrical hazards (e.g. shock or burns).
- Inadequate means of escape in case of fire.
- Injury to users caused by wearing inappropriate clothes and shoes.
- Suffocation and entrapment.

5. General health and safety requirements:

The event organiser will need to obtain risk assessments from the supplier of the inflatable to cover the delivery and retrieval, locating, set-up and supervision of the equipment. In addition, the event organiser must ensure that all aspects of the use of the inflatable are included in the event risk assessment. To ensure risks are controlled the following control measures will need to be implemented:

- Hire inflatable equipment from a reputable hire company. Ensure that the equipment is designed for commercial use and has been properly maintained and inspected in the form of 4 the Amusement Devices Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS) inspection report or the Pertexa Inflatable Play Accreditation (PIPA) scheme.

- Equipment must be set up, operated and supervised at all times by an adequate number of competent person(s). All persons supervising the inflatable equipment must be adequately trained. As a minimum, each inflatable should be **supervised by at least two competent individuals**.
- You need to make sure that the inflatable is run safely as the majority of injuries come from misuse. For commercial operated inflatable equipment, there should be constant supervision when the inflatable is blown up. When an inflatable is unattended, it should be deflated and the power source disabled. Do not leave it unattended and inflated.
- The hire company will be able to provide staff to cover this supervisory responsibility, if necessary.
- The **number of people using the inflatable must be limited to the number recommended** in the hire company's safety instructions. It is suggested that a notice is displayed highlighting agreed numbers and height limits or children.
- Individuals should not be allowed to use the bouncy castle if there is a high wind or in wet weather where there is a higher risk of serious injury.
- All users must be made to remove footwear, hard or sharp objects such as jewellery, buckles and other similar pocket contents.
- Eating, consuming alcohol or chewing gum whilst using the inflatable must not be allowed.
- Users should not be allowed to obstruct the entrance or exit of an inflatable device or climb or hang on to the walls.
- The inflatable equipment must be suitable for the intended users (i.e. if adults will be using the inflatable, the equipment must be designed for, and be able to cope with this use).
- First-aid provision should be suitable for the number of people expected to attend the event.
- In the case of fire, evacuation and escape routes should be known and firefighting equipment should be available for use on site as per the event emergency plan.
- The inflatable must be adequately secured to the ground.
- Soft matting covering hard surfaces must be placed adjacent to the front or open sides.
- Petrol generators must not be used indoors or in an enclosed space and should be of a sufficient capacity / have enough fuel in at the start of the event to prevent the need for refilling during the event.
- Electrical equipment must be suitable for the environment they are being used in.
- If there is an electrical blower with the inflatable, this should have been tested like any other portable electrical appliance and a valid PAT certificate held. The tube that connects the blower to the bag should be a least 1.4m in length.

6. Insurance

Before confirming your booking, you must check that the hire company holds Public Liability (“third party”) insurance to cover the risk of injuries for at least £5M for any one incident. Many hire companies use an overseas-based insurer that is NOT acceptable to the Charvil Parish Council so ask for written confirmation of the cover and if requested please forward a copy to the Charvil Parish Council prior to the event: bookings@charvil.com

7. Useful Information

Pertexa Inflatable Play Accreditation (PIPA) Scheme: <https://www.pipa.org.uk> the only inflatable testing scheme support by the Health and Safety Executive and now warranted by many Councils and government departments.

- Amusement Device Inspection Procedures Scheme (ADIPS): <https://www.adips.co.uk>
- RPII – (Register of Play Inspectors International) provides accreditation and training to the competency level required by the PIPA scheme. By using an RPII inflatable inspector the inflatables used have therefore been inspected to BSEN 14960:2013 standard.
- BSEN – British Standard European Norm – meaning the UK and European Law.