

Are your play area inspections official?



Why should I use an RPiI registered playground inspector?

As a headteacher you face many responsibilities, including the health and safety of your staff and pupils. But you can't do it all yourself, so some things require the services of specialists, such as inspections of your playground equipment.

So how do you know that your playground inspector is competent, experienced and providing an inspection that conforms to essential standards? There's one way to be sure – by choosing an RPiI registered Outdoor Annual Inspector.

When risk becomes a reality

There's no doubt about it, using unregistered inspectors can come at a heavy price. Here's a true story to act as a cautionary tale – this whole scenario could have been avoided if the school had insisted on using an RPiI Outdoor Annual Inspector...

Like many schools up and down the country, School X was using an external company for its gymnasium inspections. However, as is often the case, these contractors also offered to extend their services to include an annual visual inspection of the outdoor play facilities – which the school accepted.

Everything was fine, until a pupil at the school suffered an injury while playing on the outdoor equipment. The Health & Safety Executive got involved and found out that School X's playground had only undergone an annual visual inspection – which is not recognised as a valid inspection and fails to conform to BSEN1176.

School X was subsequently taken to court, and lost the case due to the implementation of inadequate systems. They received a hefty fine – valuable money out of their budget that could have been much better spent elsewhere and, of course, a child was injured unnecessarily. They now use a registered inspector, but it was a hard way to learn that lesson.

Finding a registered playground inspector is easy...

In order to meet your health and safety responsibilities, it's vital that your playground inspector is certified by the RPiI. This ensures that your school is protected from the potential risk of unsafe playground equipment. You can find a local, registered inspector by visiting our website at: www.playinspectors.com

For help, advice or further information, email us at:

rpii@playinspectors.com

Or give us a call on: **024 7669 3787**