

Gritting Policy

Date policy written: November 2025

Date policy to be reviewed – November 2027

Signed by	Date
Principal:	
Trust:	

Rationale

This policy for snow and ice clearance is based on the simple priority of ensuring the school site remains open yet safe at all times for staff and students throughout periods of inclement weather. The priority is to ensure safe access and exit to and from the school site for all school users. This must be done following the basic priority of safety for all users.

The policy is in place to allow a set procedure to be followed which is initially triggered by the Principal deciding on the safety of opening the school. Once triggered, the gritting procedure will be implemented. If, however, it is felt that the site should not be opened, staff and parents will be contacted by Dojo and email informing them of the decision to close the school. The scrolling banner on the school website will also provide up to date information.

The Principal will strive to make the decision as early as possible, taking into consideration the difficulties that staff and children may face getting into school and the weather forecast for the whole day.

This will ensure that staff and students can be informed prior to making a journey in what are likely to be difficult traffic conditions. On occasion, the decision-making process may be delayed/changed due to severe snow occurring shortly after the decision to open the school has been relayed to staff/parents.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school is fully equipped with appropriate snow clearing and protective equipment, and adequate stocks of rock salt and sand/grit etc.
- Rearranging caretaker times to ensure snow and ice clearance is undertaken at the earliest possible time. This may involve asking site staff to attend work earlier than contracted.
- Rearranging site manager duties to ensure snow and ice clearance is continued throughout the day if necessary.
- Outlining in this policy (school gritting plan), the prioritisation of routes to be gritted and appropriate access routes to use during bad weather.
- Ensuring that the gritting policy is made available to parents and carers via the school website.
- Drafting and reviewing the school's gritting plan every two years or immediately in the event of any changes to the school grounds.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

- The immediate clearance of snow and ice in designated areas is in line with the school gritting plan.
- Ensuring that equipment provided to clear snow and ice is adequate for the purpose and maintained in a satisfactory condition, supplies of rock salt and sand/grit mix should be monitored throughout the winter period and replenished promptly.
- The temporary closing access to areas around the school in line with the school gritting plan. Such areas should be clearly marked (e.g. signage or tape). Records of clearance and access route closures should be kept.

The Governing bodies are responsible for:

- Agreeing for the winter plan for the school including snow and ice clearing procedure.
- Providing sufficient resources to implement the plan.
- Monitoring that the snow and ice procedure is being carried out

All Staff are responsible for:

- Reporting to the Site Manager/ Principal/ SLT any situation where the recommended action contained within the gritting plan has not been carried out.
- Safeguarding one's own and colleagues' health and safety in bad weather.
- All Staff should wear footwear/clothing appropriate to the conditions.

Parents are responsible for:

- Adhering to the designated, gritted pathways into school.
- Collecting their child(ren) during the day should conditions worsen.
- Ensuring that the school has their up-to-date telephone numbers and emails for communication. Also ensuring they have access to school dojo.
- Wearing suitable footwear for the conditions when bringing and collecting children from school.
- Ensuring that their child(ren) are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats according to the conditions.
- Supervising their child(ren) before and after school and ensuring that children do not play on the grass and pathways to the front of school

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their own safety. This is particularly important when there is a chance that an area may be slippery such as during periods of cold weather and/or snow when there is a danger of ice having formed. Good communication is essential. Parents receive a copy of specific instructions during the autumn and winter months, severe weather letters and by Dojo messages/ emails. It is expected that the whole school community including staff, parents and children adhere to these instructions. It is vital that parents pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also come to school to bring and fetch children.

Gritting Plan

1. Pedestrian paths from reception and main gates leading around to nursery, reception, KS1 and KS2 will be gritted.
2. The walk ways around the car park to the Reception Area will be gritted (extreme caution should be exercised in moving from a vehicle to the pathways).
3. The path from the deliveries door to the kitchen and around main reception area will be gritted.
4. The pathway from KS2 doors to all classroom's entrances will be gritted.
5. The pathway from the KS1 doors to all classroom's entrances will be gritted.
6. The car park will not be gritted as it is impractical to grit large areas.

Please note: - It is not practical to grit large areas of grounds therefore if it is thought that playground areas are unsafe due to underfoot conditions they will not be used during the day however, should the Principal decide that it is safe for the children, they will be permitted to play out during playtime and lunchtime.

At the beginning/end of the day adults collecting children must use the clearly gritted pathways. It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there is no site supervisor cover available to grit the paths. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming to the school premises later in the day.

Paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility – if they are dangerous, parents may wish alert the Highways department to the situation and request their attention

Pathways will be gritted first thing in the morning only, unless in extreme conditions. At this point, any Members of staff can be asked to re grit the front two pathways only, before 3.15pm pupil collection takes place.

Please be aware that using grit does not completely alleviate the risk of slipping, especially when temperatures are continuously low.



All areas in green will be gritted as of the gritting plan.