



## ESPRIT Adverse Weather Policy

Committee	Trust Board
Approved on:	January 2022
Next Review date	July 2024
Updated/Reviewed on	

## **ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

During the year there are occasions when we can experience adverse weather conditions. It is always very difficult when we have snow and ice to determine how this will affect travel etc. and I would ask that you follow the policy below if we experience any adverse weather conditions. Our policy is always to ensure children, parents and staff are kept as safe as possible.

Wherever possible the school will remain open and staff will be here as normal. However, due to road and weather conditions some staff may be late arriving and the start of the school day could be affected. We would ask, therefore, that children do not arrive on these days until 9.00am or at the amended school start time stated in our communications.

We always hope to be open as normal, however, we feel you should be aware of the following procedures to be followed in order to avoid any confusion should severe weather conditions cause disruption.

### **Before the start of the school day**

- If there are adverse weather conditions in the local area the site duty person contacts the Estates and Procurement Manager immediately (By 06:45am)
- Estates and Procurement Manager to update the Principals before 7:00am with site update
- The Principals, following advice obtained locally, will make a decision based on conditions at the schools and the surrounding roads and footpaths as to whether it is safe to open the schools. A text message will be sent by the Academy Business Manager to staff and parents by 7:05am
- To enable the schools to open it may be necessary to delay the start time and again these details would be given to parents via local radio.
- Parents are asked to note that it may not be possible for staff to answer the telephone and we would ask that you do not call before 8.45am. Listening to the local radio for details of any closure is the preferred method of communication. Text messages will also be used to provide updates to parents and staff regarding any school closure due extreme weather conditions.
- Any closure will be detailed on the [www.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.stoke.gov.uk) and the individual academy websites at [www.grovejunior.co.uk](http://www.grovejunior.co.uk) [www.northwoodbroom.co.uk](http://www.northwoodbroom.co.uk) [www.hamilton.stoke.sch.uk](http://www.hamilton.stoke.sch.uk)

### **During the school day**

- Once a decision has been made to open the school, weather conditions will be closely monitored and only in the event of an extreme decline will the school be closed and parents will be notified by text message.
- If the weather becomes severe during the day then parents may contact the school if they feel that they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (i.e. travelling/walking long distances or collecting other children from local schools).
- The academies will remain open until the end of the school day; however, if parents are delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, they should contact the school as soon as possible to give an anticipated arrival time. Arrangements can then be made for the children to be cared for in school.

- Children will be supervised until a parent/career is able to collect them.
- Parents must consider their own safety, traffic congestion and safety of others in these circumstances and understand that children at Northwood Broom, Hamilton and Grove Academies will be cared for until it is possible for them to be collected.
- Parents must follow the paths/routes that have been salted/gritted.
- If poor weather conditions continue the Estates and Procurement Manager will call the Executive Principal by 15:00, with an update on site situation at all three academies including surrounding areas and predict weather conditions overnight.
- The Executive Principal in consultation with Trustees and Governors will decide if a next day closure is to be arranged or defer the decision after consultation with Trustees and Governors

### **Gritting Plan**

The academies recognises that arrangements should be made to minimise risks from snow and ice. This may involve gritting, snow clearing and closure of some areas of the school sites. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the establishments remain open as normal. A risk assessment is in place which covers the hazards associated with snow and ice on the premises and identifies the control measures which need to be implemented. This risk assessment is reviewed annually during the autumn term.

The Principals and Estates and Procurement Manager monitor local weather forecasts in order to react to situations as quickly as possible and implement any special measures. These measures may include staff starting work earlier to commence the gritting plan. The Estates and Procurement Manager and Site Staff will attend the school sites as soon as possible in the event of snow and ice. Areas will be cleared (depending on weather conditions, i.e. if all sites are affected) and treated with salt/grit to maintain clear pathways especially where temperatures remain below freezing. The site staff will ensure that the following routes for parents are cleared from snow and ice and gritted accordingly.

#### **Northwood Broom Academy –**

Nursery pupils and parents - a direct path from the Northwood Park Road pedestrian gate to the main entrance of the Nursery Building will be gritted and cleared of any ice or snow.

Key stage 1- A direct path from both gates on Northwood park road to the main entrances of the main school building will be gritted and cleared of snow and ice

Key stage 1 - In the event of severe snow and Ice and the foot paths from the gates on Northwood Park road cannot be cleared. A direct path from the pedestrian gate on Keelings Road to the red hall doors at the front of the main school building will be gritted and cleared of any ice or snow for access for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

**Grove Academy –** A direct path from all pedestrian access gates on Keelings Road, Turner Street and Myatt Street to all entrances of the school buildings will be gritted and cleared of any ice or snow.

**Hamilton Academy –** a direct path from the pedestrian entrance gate to the Nursery, Reception and KS1 Entrances to the school will be cleared of any ice or snow.

- Ensure car parks are gritted at each academy; this will include the disabled access path.
- Ensure that all fire escape routes are cleared of snow and ice and gritted.
- Ensure resources for gritting/ salting are maintained at adequate level
- Report on the ground conditions at each school to the Principal at the earliest opportunity and no later than 7:00am
- Any particularly hazardous areas will be fenced off or signs displayed.
- As time permits, other areas may be cleared and gritted as required.

**All pedestrians are to use the gritted pathways only.**

Where the Principal or Estates and Procurement Manager have concerns over the safety of certain external pathways, areas, playground, etc., affected areas will be taken out of use and marked clearly using signs/cones/tape, as appropriate, to ensure that everyone is made aware. The local authority is responsible for gritting all external pathways and roads beyond the academy property. Before the school gates are open and after school closes parents and carers are responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of their children.

When the playgrounds remain excessively slippery due to compacted snow and ice, it may be necessary for pupils to be accommodated indoors at break times. If the playground does remain in use, it may be appropriate to increase supervision levels.

Site to be checked regularly for safety after initial gritting process. Any signs to be displayed or areas fenced off as required or alternative routes clearly visible.

**Staff will**

- Ensure children remain indoors when conditions are not safe for outdoor play. If children are taken outside, then a risk assessment will be undertaken.
- Make their way to school unless advised otherwise by the Principal.
- Keep the Caretaking and Office staff aware if conditions deteriorate so that paths can be re gritted.
- Remain at school to supervise children unless directed otherwise.

**All staff, parents, Governors and trustees can access this policy via our websites – should any amendments occur then updated information will be available there.**

We do hope this clarifies the policy for inclement weather at Grove, Hamilton and Northwood Broom Academies and we would ask that you keep this policy for future reference throughout the winter months