

Waterside Primary School

GRITTING POLICY



DATE:	VERSION	CONSULTATION	RATIFIED BY ACADEMY COUNCIL	REVIEW DATE
December 2017	1	Staff/parents	12/12/17	December 2018
December 2018	2	Staff/parents	01/01/19	December 2020
24/11/19	3	Amended to meet the needs of building works	05/12/19	On completion of building works
23 November 2021	4	Staff/Parents	24/11/21	November 2023

Underlying principle

It is essential for schools to have a reasonable working and written gritting policy in place. It is essential that assessments are made to establish in plenty of time - at the beginning of each day, during the day and at the end of the school day to determine the requirement to implement the gritting policy or not. It is essential that a school exercises its full duty of care and ensures safe access to and from the school entrances and whilst moving around the school during the day for all staff, pupils, parents and visitors to the school. A school needs to document the risk assessment and that the gritting policy has been activated and when and how often it is implemented.

Policy in Practice

What the school does to assist in the event of icy weather conditions:

At Waterside Primary School it is not practical to grit the entire site, but as part of the gritting policy, safe routes have been identified and communicated to staff, pupils and parents. The site supervisor arrives at 7.00am each school morning. In addition it is common practice for the perimeter gates to remain locked in the mornings so that entry into school can be controlled, thereby minimising the risks to children parents and visitors. At playtimes a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the Head in conjunction with members of the Senior Leadership Team and Health & Safety Leader. In extreme cases the Head teacher may decide that there is no option but to close the school if there is presented a severe health and safety risk. If this done the Chair of Academy Council and the local radio stations will be informed. The decision to allow parents to collect children early during adverse weather will be made by the Head Teacher.

Preparation

The weather conditions will be monitored by the School Staff and appropriate action taken.

Gritting is the responsibility of the Site Supervisor, after discussion with the Head Teacher/ Asst. Head Teacher/H & S Leader.

The Site Supervisor must attend the Site allowing enough time to complete the necessary gritting for the school to open.

The pathways should be cleared/gritted before the arrival of Pupils / Staff.

The grit is stored in the Grit Tubs around the site, and additional supplies in the plant room.

During the day the situation will be reviewed for deteriorating weather conditions and further clearing/gritting will take place if necessary.

What the school expect of the users of the school site during icy weather conditions

Good communication is essential. Parents receive a copy of specific instructions during the autumn and winter months via the newsletters and the website. Children have the processes explained to them in the classroom. It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also come to school to bring and return with children. During these conditions we all have difficulty getting to our place of work and dropping off children around the city, we ask parents to be responsible and plan more time for their journey, suitable

footwear for having to walk further, wrapping up to keep warm etc....parents should consider where they are parking to drop off children during these wintery conditions. Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

School accepts no responsibility for accidents occurring outside the gritted areas marked in this policy.

Parents/Carers and children are advised to allow more time for their journey during snow and icy conditions. They will also be advised to wear suitable footwear and registers will be kept open longer on such days. This information will be regularly communicated to parents/carers and put in the school prospectus.

Statement of Intent

Waterside Primary School will always endeavour to remain open during wintery weather conditions. To enable this to be done safely the school has produced a gritting policy which it will action on days it considers the requirement to clear/ grit pathways is required.

These are normally days as below:

1. On the day when snow has fallen and stayed.
2. On the day if temperatures are below freezing and ice has formed
3. If there is a visible ground frost, surfaces are checked and, if found slippery, gritted
4. If ice or snow is forecast for the following day at the discretion of the Head Teacher following discussion with the Site Supervisor
5. Where snow or ice is forecast on a day when the School is closed, where the day immediately prior to that is a normal work day, gritting may take place in preparation of those conditions at the discretion of the Head Teacher.

Waterside Primary School has a large area of pathways to be cleared/gritted and with regard to Health and Safety guidelines, the Health and Safety committee have agreed that during current building work, only the entrance into school through the reception will be cleared.

This is:

A direct route through the pedestrian gate next to the front reception gates, to the main reception doors.



The KS1, Main and FS Playgrounds will not be gritted - all children enter through Front Office.

No other paths and areas of the school will be cleared/gritted. Therefore please use the only the Front Office door to enter/leave the school premises The pathway past the wind turbine will be gritted for access, along with the pathway into Front Office. Entrance to the Breakfast Club will be through Front Office as normal.