

QUEEN'S CRESCENT SCHOOL

Winter Gritting Policy

The school recognises that it has a responsibility to provide employees, pupils and others who enter the premises with a safe environment in which to work and learn.

The school is committed to complying with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and other regulations that require, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision and maintenance of a safe means of access to and egress from the premises.

During the winter the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls is increased by the presence of snow and ice, especially at the start of the school day, on foot paths and other areas of pedestrian traffic.

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.

Procedure

The school will take the following steps to ensure safe access and egress during inclement weather, when the risks of injury from slip and trip accidents is increased due to snow and ice:

- The school will treat specific access routes as detailed below ideally the evening before, if there is good reason to believe that local conditions would otherwise be hazardous due to snow and ice. It is acknowledged that the school will not always have prior knowledge of inclement weather conditions.
- The caretaker will clear and/or grit access routes as identified in the site plan either the evening before or as soon as possible on the morning of inclement weather. This will occur, if reasonably practicable, before the arrival of other staff and pupils.
- 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.
- It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there is no caretaking cover available to grit the paths. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises later in the day.
- Whilst every effort will be made to clear snow and ice it must be remembered that individuals have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others. This means being aware of the potential hazards of walking or driving in icy conditions and acting reasonably in the circumstances.
- Paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility – if they are dangerous we will alert the Highways department to the situation and request their attention.
- The school will review the effectiveness of the winter gritting policy before each winter or if circumstances change.

The following areas will be gritted (as shown on the attached site plan):

- From the main gates, pathways around the car park leading to the main school building.
- A single track walkway around the main building leading to each classroom door and to the mobile classrooms to include the steps and the ramp to Newbury class.

The following areas will not be gritted:

- The car park area
- The front and back playgrounds (apart from the single track pathway to the classrooms which will be gritted)

Signed
Mrs J Hawkins, Headteacher

Dated.....

Signed
Mrs R Dimech, Chair of Governor

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