



Asterdale Primary School

Gritting Policy and Gritting Plan

Approved by
Governing Body : February 2018

Review : September 2018

Signed : _____

This policy for snow and ice clearance is based on a priority for ensuring the school site remains open yet safe at all times for staff and students throughout periods of inclement weather.

The policy requires a set procedure to be followed which is initially triggered by the Head Teacher/Site Manager making a positive decision 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 via Text message informing them of the decision to close the school. The Head Teacher/Site Manager will strive to make the decision as early as possible, taking into consideration difficulties that staff may face in getting into school and the weather forecast for the whole day.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher /Site Manger

- In accordance with the school gritting plan (below), prioritise routes to be gritted and appropriate access routes to use during bad weather.
- In the absence of the Site Manager ensure that alternative arrangements will be put in place to ensure continuity of service.
- Ensure the school is fully equipped with appropriate snow clearing and protective Equipment.
- Ensure 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.
- Carry out a review of these procedures (including this policy, risk assessment and gritting plan) in the first half of the autumn term to ensure their continued relevance.

Site Manager/ Caretaker

- The immediate clearance of snow and ice in designated areas in line with the school gritting plan.
- Temporarily closing access 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.

Staff

- Reporting to the Site Manager/Headteacher any situation where the recommended action contained within the gritting plan has not been carried out.
- Safeguarding own and colleagues' health and safety in bad weather.
- Wear footwear/clothing appropriate to the conditions.

Parents/ Carers

- Adhering to the designated, gritted pathways into school.
- Supervise their child(ren) before and after school and ensuring that children do not play on play equipment outside of the school day.
- Ensure that their child(ren) are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats appropriate to the conditions.
- Collect their child during the day should conditions worsen (if requested by the school).

School Gritting Plan

Gritting is to be carried out when frost, ice or snow is forecast or when walkways are likely to be damp or wet and the floor temperatures are at, or below, freezing. The best times are early in the evening before the frost settles and/or early in the morning before employees arrive. Salt doesn't work instantly; it needs sufficient time to dissolve into the moisture on the floor.

Efforts will be made to ensure gritting does not take place during heavy rain. This is because the salt will be washed away causing a problem if the rain then turns to snow. Compacted snow, which turns to ice, is difficult to treat effectively with grit. 'Dawn frost' can occur on dry surfaces, when early morning dews form and freeze on impact with cold surfaces. It can be difficult to predict when or where this condition will occur therefore staff and others are reminded to take extra care.

Actions to be taken immediately prior to adverse weather	Responsibility
Checking weather forecasts on a daily basis during winter months. (Note: email alerts can be received by registering on the Met Office website www.metoffice.gov.uk)	Site Manager / Caretaker
Ensuring any particular equipment e.g. snow shovels are easily accessible for when bad weather hits.	Site Manager / Caretaker
Checking sufficient salt supplies are in place and their locations are known.	Site Manager / Caretaker
Identifying and agreeing times when gritting will need to be done.	Site Manager / Caretaker

Actions to be taken during times of snow / ice	Responsibility
Ensuring barriers/signage/instructions are provided to ensure access is restricted to the following high risk areas of the school.	Site Manager / Caretaker
Although paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility if they are dangerous the Highways Department should be alerted to the situation.	Site Manager / Caretaker
Regularly checking paths throughout the day to ensure re-freezing or further snow coverage has not occurred. If it has areas will be re-cleared and gritted as necessary.	Site Manager / Caretaker

The following areas of the school grounds have been classed as priority areas for gritting: Gritting will take place during **early morning before school**.

Areas to be gritted
Path from the 'Hub' to the Nursery.
Path from the Nursery to Main school entrance/reception.
Path from the 'Hub to junior playground.
Path around school main building to all classroom entrances.
Junior playground, either pathway or whole area depending on severity of ice/snow.
Top playground, depending on severity of snow/ice.
Disabled car parking space.
Tarmac area of staff car park.

The next page shows a drawing of the key areas to be gritted.

