



Asterdale Primary School

Gritting Policy and Gritting Plan

Approved by
Governing Body : October 2018

Review : October 2020

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 |

Gritting will take place during **early morning before school.**

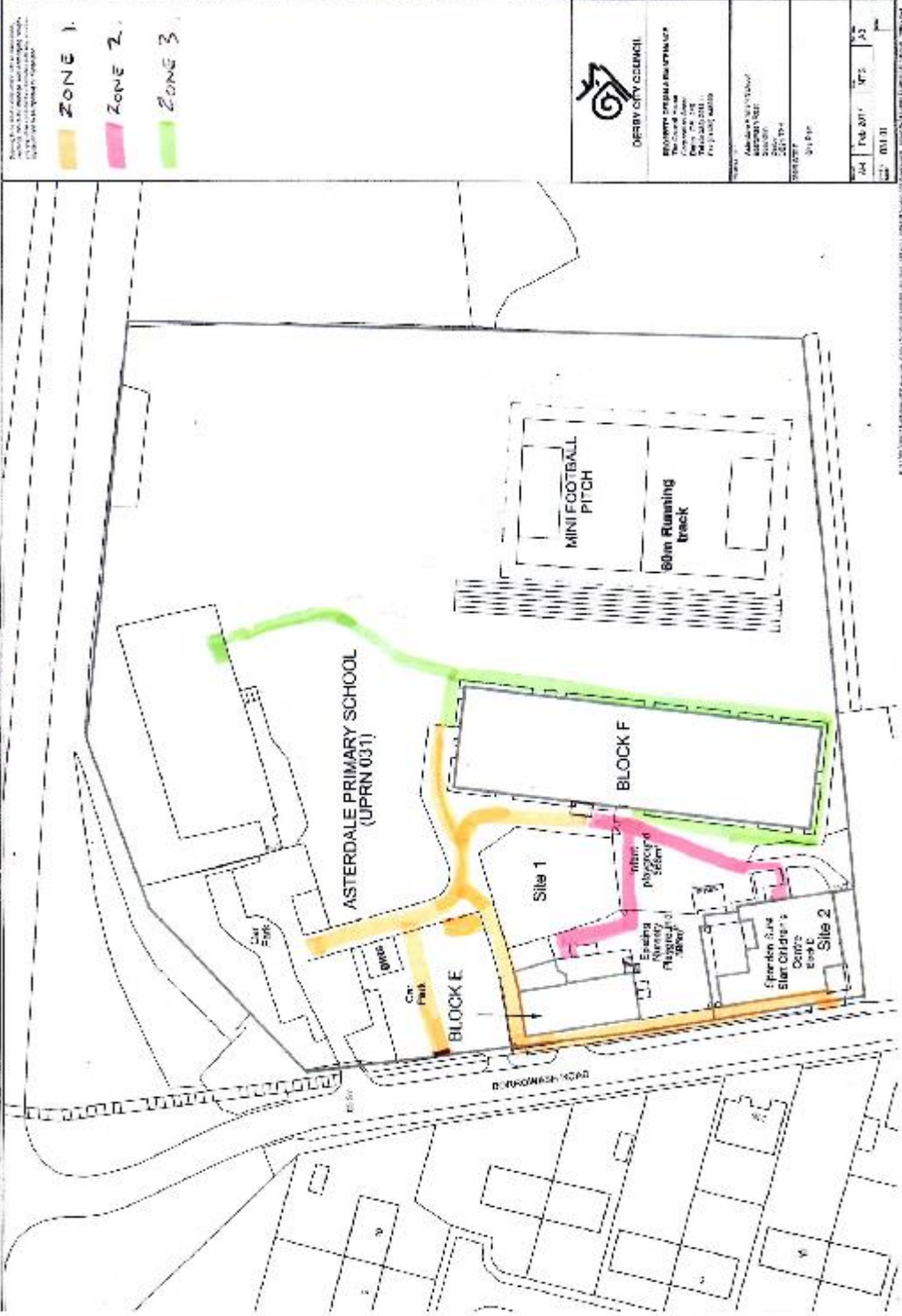
The following areas of the school grounds have been classed as priority areas for gritting:

| Areas to be gritted in order of priority |
|---|
| Zone 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff car park to main school• Staff car park to kitchen entrance• Staff car park to Nursery• Disabled parking bays• New pedestrian walkway• Path from main school to Nursery• Path from Nursery to Hub |
| Zone 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency escape routes from rear of Nursery• Emergency escape routes from rear of Hub to main school entrance |
| Zone 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire escape routes from main school to junior playground assembly point• Fire escape routes from kitchen to junior playground assembly point |

Attachment 1 shows a drawing of the key areas to be gritted.

Attachment 1

Grime Access Routes



- ZONE 1**
- ZONE 2**
- ZONE 3**

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