

Winter Gritting Risk Assessment & Policy Summer 2025



Introduction

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 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.

Hazard

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.

Persons affected

All staff, visitors and pupils

Risk Rating

Medium - risk of frequent slips and trips resulting in minor injury or occasional risk of major injury

Existing Control measures

The School has adopted the procedure below in order to control the risk of injury in the presence of ice and snow.

Further action required

The head teacher will monitor the effectiveness of these procedures throughout the winter season and, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Governor, amend any aspect of it found to be ineffective.



Winter Gritting Procedure

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

- The school will treat access routes and priority areas the night 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 know beforehand on all occasions.
- The caretaker will clear and grit access routes and priority areas identified below as soon as possible on the morning of inclement weather. This will occur, if reasonably practicable, before the arrival of other staff and pupils.

Priority access routes for winter gritting will be:

- 1) Footpath through school gates beginning at railings and path alongside staff car park to the building.
- 2) Staff and visitors' car parks including the road.
- 3) Footpath up the side of KS2 yard to the side entrance of the building.
- 4) A path across KS2 yard to the main entrance.
- 5) The bin store and path around the entire building passing all entrances and fire exits.

Other priority areas for winter gritting will be:

- 1) KS2 yard
- 2) KS1 yard and footpaths

- During the school day further applications of grit will be applied when required to ensure safe egress from the site at the end of the school 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.

Special attention will be given to –

- Bin store and path from the bin store to the kitchen

The school will review the effectiveness of the winter gritting policy before each winter or if circumstances change

Agreed by – Stephen Hall. Health and Safety Governor	Date – July 2025
Date next review due – July 2027	