

Hipsburn Primary School
Gritting Procedures Policy

November 2024



Our School Vision:

“The most valuable gift we can give a learner is to enable them to think for themselves, to care for others and thereby acquire a sense of self-worth and confidence which can be used to benefit both society and the individual.”

Overview

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.

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. The head teacher will monitor the effectiveness of these procedures throughout the winter season and amend any aspect of it found to be ineffective.

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 caretaker will take responsibility to check that adequate levels of stock are ordered in advance.

- 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 acknowledge that the school will not always know beforehand on all occasions.

- That the caretaker will clear and grit access routes and priority areas identified in the site plan attached as soon as possible on the morning of inclement weather. This will occur, if reasonably practicable, before the arrival of other staff and pupils.
- 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.
- The school will review the effectiveness of the winter gritting policy before each winter or if circumstances change.

Priority will be given to:

- The route from the main school gates to main entrance/reception.
- The route from the car park to the playground.
- The path adjacent to the school field.

Special attention will also be given to:

- Steps
- Ramps, including those for people with accessibility problems.

In the event of severe weather conditions and school closure being the only alternative, in line with Northumberland County Council guidelines the school will:

- Telephone the local radio stations and inform them of why the school is closed.

(information kept in school office)

- Contact parents (contact details in school office in file).
- Have someone available to answer telephone queries.

A letter is shared with parents (with regards to inclement weather) in the Autumn Term and a copy of this can be accessed on the school website.

Responsible member of staff – Mr. K Moloney

Responsible governor for Health and Safety – Mrs. A Wort

Approved : November 2021

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