

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Gritting Policy



'Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together'

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.

The school will take the following steps to ensure safe access and egress:

- 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 school 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.
- 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.
- Paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility – if they present significant or immediate danger, 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:

- The path from the gate along to the Reception office.
- The path onto the playground and into each class.
- If the southern fields are used during icy/snowy conditions the Nun's walk access steps will be accessed and gritted if needed.

The following areas will not be gritted:

- The whole playground.
- Any paths leading to the school site.

Arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and review

Responsible committee for monitoring & evaluation:	Resources Committee
Policy reviewed by:	Resources Committee
Policy review & approval date:	January 2022
Next review date:	October 2022