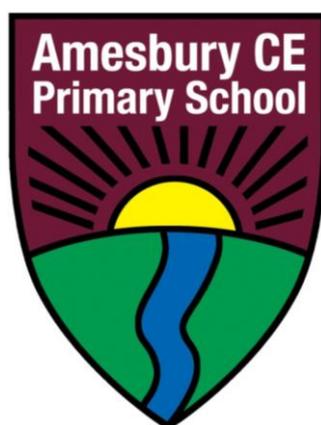


Amesbury CE VC Primary School

School Gritting Policy and Gritting Plan

2017/18



Adopted by Governors: February 2018

Adopted by Staff: February 2018

Review due: February 2020

Signed Chair of Governors: E Bagg

School Gritting Policy

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 Headteacher making a positive decision on the safety of opening the school. Once triggered, the gritting procedure will be implemented.

Movement between the buildings will be kept to a minimum (essential movement only). Worship would change to class or Key Stage worship, with Year 2 Stourhead joining with KS2.

At lunch time, only KS2 & Stourhead hot dinners would have to cross the playground (gritted pathway only). All the KS2 packed lunches and Stourhead packed lunches would eat in the KS2 Hall.

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 Headteacher 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 and SLT

- Outline in the school gritting plan (below), the prioritisation of routes to be gritted and appropriate access routes to use during bad weather.
- 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.
- Liaise with the Site Manager/Assistant Site Manager to confirm expectations of this policy.
- Ensure in lieu of Site Manager absence, that alternative arrangements will be put in place to ensure continuity of service.

Site Manager/Assistant Site Manager

- 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 (eg signage or tape). Records of clearance and access route closures should be kept.
- Ensuring 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
- Ensure the school is fully equipped with appropriate snow clearing and protective equipment, and adequate stocks of rock salt and sand/grit etc.

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, colleagues' and children's 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 according to the conditions
- Collect their child during the day should conditions worsen (if requested by the school).

It should be noted that all people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

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 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)	Headteacher Business Manager
Ensuring any particular equipment eg snow shovels are easily accessible for when bad weather hits	Site Manager/Asst Site Manager
Checking sufficient salt supplies are in place and their locations are known	Site Manager
Identifying and agreeing times when gritting will need to be done	Site Manager

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/Asst Site Manager
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	Headteacher Business Manager
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/Asst Site Manager

The following areas of the school grounds have been classed as priority areas for gritting/clearing:
(Gritting will take place during both early morning and early evening)

Path from main entrance to reception
Tarmac area in front of reception
Path from main entrance to main hall & KS1 entrance
Path from Kitchener Road car park to reception and both KS2 entrances
Path from Cold Harbour entrance around side of building to wooden gate
Path from small gate in corner of Cold Harbour car park to wooden gate
Parking areas where possible

Paths to be cleared and/or gritted:



When snow clearance is required, the process will start at the main entrance of the school and will work to the rear of the school on a best endeavours basis. The school cannot take responsibility for pupils/parents/visitors on untreated areas.

Please remember: All people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.