



Baldwins Gate CE Primary School

Gritting Policy

Date of review	May 2022
Chair of Governors	Fiona Boulton
Headteacher	Leanne Lowndes
Date of next review	September 2022

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Winter Gritting Risk Policy

WARNING

Slips, trips and falls on the level are the major single cause of injury in schools to both employees and pupils.

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 & 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 headteacher will monitor the effectiveness of these procedures throughout the winter season and 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.
- That 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 areas:

- Route from pedestrian gate around the school
- Route from pedestrian gate to library doors
- Route from pedestrian gate to hall (fire exit door)
- Route from main gate to kitchen and boiler house doors

- Staff arriving in the morning will assess routes and priority areas identified to ascertain whether they require clearing and/or grit. Grit bins are located throughout the school site:
 1. School playground
 2. Side of school hall
 3. Library door

Areas to be treated by staff as necessary.

- Should gritting be necessary parents and pupils will be instructed to proceed straight into school on arrival to prevent anyone accessing the school playground. Alternative arrangements will be implemented for collection at the end of the school day should the playground remain inaccessible. Appropriate instructions communicated to parents using the text messaging service.
- 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 access routes for winter gritting will be:

- Route from pedestrian gate around the school
- Route from pedestrian gate to library doors
- Route from pedestrian gate to hall (fire exit door)
- Route from main gate to kitchen and boiler house doors

Playgrounds and associated pathways will only be cleared once the priority routes are under control.

The member of staff (Caretaker) undertaking the gritting will be responsible for wearing appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and will have undertaken manual handling training.

In the event of severe weather conditions and school closure being the only alternative, the school will follow the Emergency School Closure Procedure.

May 2022