

Winter Gritting Risk Assessment & Policy

Wingate Primary School

Church Street & Moor Lane

November 2023



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. The school has completed a Manual Handling-Winter Gritting Activities Risk Assessment and shared the assessment with the relevant staff. Gritting that takes place on the school site will be recorded and remedial actions recorded.

Further action required

The Head Teacher will monitor the effectiveness of these procedures and risk assessment 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.

1	<p>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.</p> <p>There will be a small bucket of grit at the entrance to each site so that by gritting the path into the building, the Caretaker can have a safe access route into school.</p>
2	<p>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 and keep records of the time and date that they have gritted.</p>
3	<p>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 and again records will be kept.</p>

4	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.
5	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:

Church Street Site:

The path from the main gate to the entrance of school including steps and ramp

The car park and route from car park to main entrance

- Children will enter the school by the main front door when weather is severe (rain, snow & ice)

Moor Lane Site:

From pupil entrance gate to the main visitor entrance and around school to the pupil entrance

Steps to the main office

From pupil entrance gate to the bike stores

The car park & route from car park to the staff entrance

Other priority areas for winter gritting will be:

Church Street: The yard, when weather, time and grit allow.

Restricted areas in the winter will be coned off – please do not walk within this area or allow your children to play in this area.

Special attention will be given to:

- Steps
- Ramps, including those for people with accessibility problems
 - Zebra crossings and other areas where road marking need to be seen

Manual: School	Further Information: Winter Gritting Risk Assessment & Policy	Version 1.4	Date: August 2022	Date of next review: August 2025
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