

St Augustine's C.E. (C)First School



Gritting and Snow Clearance Policy

January 2016

REVIEW YEARLY unless changes to regulations, site, personnel or procedures make earlier review necessary

Review Date	Amendments	Reviewer

GRITTING POLICY

1. Introduction

It is essential that a school exercises its full duty of care and ensures safe access to and from the school entrance, and whilst moving around the school during the day, for all staff, pupils, parents and visitors. It is also essential that assessments are made to establish the risk in plenty of time - at the beginning of each day, during the day and at the end of the school day to ascertain the need to implement the gritting policy or not.

2. Procedures

2.1 In the event of icy weather conditions it is not practical to grit the entire site, but as part of the gritting policy, safe routes have been identified and communicated to staff, pupils and parents. There is a gritting priority plan. (See appendix 1)

2.2 A site survey will be carried out by the Headteacher/Head of school each morning. This will determine if the identified safe routes require gritting or not. The Premises Manager will commence gritting procedures on arrival to the site. Staff should be aware of this when parking and walking from their cars to the school entrance. Grit will be made available for use by staff should they arrive before any action can be taken (stored in the boiler room).

2.3 It is common practice for the perimeter gates to remain locked in the mornings so that entry into school can be controlled, thereby minimising the risks to children, parents and visitors. **Routes into school will be gritted by 8:45am when gates are opened for the start of School.**

2.4 At **playtimes** a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the Headteacher/Head of school. If applicable, children may be allowed outside but areas restricted.

2.5 Gritting may need to be done at other times (during the day, or at the end of the day) if the weather deteriorates and if gritting would assist safety.

2.6 In extreme cases the Headteacher/Head of School may decide that there is no option but to close the school if there is a severe health and safety risk. If this is done the Chair of Governors and the local radio stations will be informed. A text message will be sent to all parents using the office mobile phone.

2.7 Good communication is essential. Parents receive a copy of specific instructions via the newsletters (see appendix 2), school mobile phone and the website. Children have the processes explained to them in the classroom or during assembly. It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also come to school to bring and fetch children.

2.8 During these conditions everyone will have difficulty getting to their place of work and dropping off children. Parents should be responsible and plan more time for their journey. Children should have suitable footwear for walking to school, if needed, and wrap up to keep warm for outdoor play. Parents should not expect to park close to the school, but especially not at these times.

2.9 Parents and visitors must use the gritted paths rather than walk across the snow and ice. Gritting will not be done on the pavements outside the school.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every year, or earlier if required.

Appendix 1 - Gritting and snow clearance area

Premises Manager to clear a 1m path from the school gates to the main entrance and spread a fine layer of grit. The car park to be cleared if practicable and possible and a fine layer of grit spread.

The playground will not be cleared.

These actions will be reviewed during the day and repeated if necessary.

Appendix 2 - Sample newsletter message

Emergency School Closures

With the season of winter almost upon us a reminder that in case of bad weather conditions any school closure will be announced on the Staffordshire County Council website

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/emercencyschoolclosures.aspx>.

Headteachers can now update this web site in real time, allowing parents to get up to date information on their child's school in the quickest way possible.

You can now sign up for school closure alerts via text message and email from Staffordshire County Council, so that you can be notified immediately when the school informs them of a closure. The alerts system includes school closures and a wide range of other county council services. Follow this link to register

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/schoolclosurelist/schoolclosurelist.aspx>

We will also endeavour to send out a text message to all parents. The school office will be manned from 8:30 a.m., assuming that staff will be able to travel and any decision regarding closure will be made as soon as possible. Please ensure that the school is open before leaving your child.