



Toft Hill Primary School Gritting Policy

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 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.

Procedures

- 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 (appendix 1).
- The caretaker arrives at 6:30 am each day and will conduct a site survey to determine if identified routes need gritting or not. A warning notice will be erected to warn visitors and children that there is ice and to stay on the designated gritted paths.
- It is common practice for the pedestrian access gate to remain locked in the mornings so that entry into school can be controlled, thereby minimising the risk to children, parents and visitors. **Routes into school will be gritted by 7:50 am when the gates are opened for Breakfast Club.**
- At break times a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the teacher on duty in conjunction with a member of the Leadership Team.
- It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there is no caretaking cover available to grit paths. It is therefore important that extreme care is taken when coming onto the school premises later in the day.
- In extreme cases the Headteacher may make the decision that there is no option but to close the school if there is risk to health and safety. If this is done, the Chair of Governors and the Local Authority and local radio stations will be informed. Parents will be informed by text message.
- Good communication is important. Parents receive a copy of specific information during the autumn and winter months via letters, newsletters, website and text messaging service. Children have procedures explained to them in class and in assembly time. It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also bring and collect children.
- 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. Parent should not expect to park close to the school and especially not at these times.
- Children should have suitable footwear and warm clothing, including spare. Outdoor play will occur whenever possible.
- Paths outside of the school grounds are not the responsibility of the school.

Monitoring and evaluation

The policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years or earlier if required. Date of review December 2016.

Signed.....(Mrs J Stobbs, Headteacher) Date.....
Signed.....(Mrs A Barron, Chair of Governors)

Appendix 1

Gritting Priority Plan

- 1) A clear route will be gritted from the pedestrian access gate, through the access controlled gate, across the Early Years area, through the small gate and around the building to the main entrance door.
- 2) A path across the yard to the metal access ramp and the ramp itself will be cleared and gritted.
- 3) Pedestrian routes on the car park leading to the staff access gate will be cleared and gritted