William Austin Junior School

Policy for Winter Gritting

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 and 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 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.
- 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 car park to staff entrance
- Route from main gate to main entrance/reception
- Pupil entrance and paths

Other priority areas for winter gritting will be:-

- Playground
- Visitor car park

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

In the event of severe weather conditions and school closure being the only alternative, the school will:-

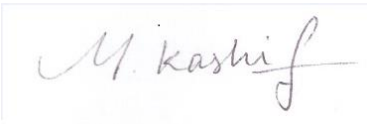
- Telephone the local radio stations and inform them of why the school is closed. (information kept in school office)
- Contact parents (via text messages)

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

Policy updated: September 2026

Staff responsible: Premises Manager

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on: 16th September 2026

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:  (signature)

M. Kashif - Chair of Governors (printed)