



OUTWOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL GRITTING & LEAF REMOVAL PLAN

The approved code of practice which supports the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations states that “arrangements should be made to minimise risks from snow and ice. This may involve gritting, snow clearing and closure of some routes . . . “. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the establishment remains open as normal. A risk assessment is in place which covers the hazards associated with snow and ice on our premises.

Wet and decaying fallen leaves that become wet or have started to decay can increase the risk of slipping in two ways, they hide any hazard that may be on the path or they themselves are slippery. Mr Frost will remove the leaves at regular intervals where there is a slipping hazard.

The Headteacher, Mrs Wells (or Deputy Heads, Mrs Winter or Miss Smart in her absence) and the Site Supervisor, Mr Frost monitor local weather forecasts in order to react to situations as quickly as possible and implement any special measures. These include staff starting work earlier to commence the gritting plan. Mr Frost contacts the Site Supervisor at deFerrers Academy to discuss plans as soon as possible.

- A path 1 metre wide from the site entrance to pre-determined building entrances is cleared. Slopes and steps to the porta cabin are also regarded as a priority.
- Cleared paths are treated with salt/grit to maintain a clear pathway especially where temperatures remain below freezing.
- As time permits, other pathways to entrances and between buildings will be cleared and gritted.
- The car park is not treated as priority but pathways leading from the car park to the building will be dealt with as soon as possible. *(Cars parked on the car park are done so at own risk.)*
- The main school drive (up to the mini island) will be gritted and is shared responsibility with Outwoods and deFerrers. Hazard signs will be displayed.

Where the Headteacher or Site Supervisor have concerns over the safety of certain external pathways, circulation routes, playgrounds etc., affected areas will be taken out of use. If there is a requirement to prevent access to paths, slopes, steps or other areas then these will be marked clearly using signs/cones/tape, as appropriate, to ensure everyone is made aware.

Before school starts at 8.50 am and after it finishes at 3.15 pm, parents and carers are responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of their children and for ensuring that any areas clearly marked as inaccessible are avoided.

Where playgrounds remain excessively slippery due to compacted snow and ice, it may be necessary for pupils to be accommodated indoors at break times. Only children who are suitably dressed and have brought a letter of permission will be allowed to play in the snow.

All stakeholders are aware of the gritting plan. This includes staff (including Mellors Catering staff) parents, governors and lettings.

Outside of normal working hours it is the responsibility of the people letting the premises to make a decision about the safety of the ungritted premises (including car park) before letting their groups come onto site.

Parents will be advised during the autumn term of the plans and procedures put in place for dealing with snow and ice around the school premises.

Should a decision be taken to close the school due to bad weather, the Headteacher will inform parents and staff via text (Teachers2Parents), and the Emergency School Closure page on the Staffordshire County Council website which the local radio stations (Radio Derby & Touch FM) use to announce closures.