



VICTORIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL- GRITTING PLAN November 2016- Victoria Road



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. The school is responsible for any part of their premises within Staffordshire County Council ownership.

At the start of each Autumn Term, the School Caretaker will ensure that appropriate stocks of salt/grit have been ordered and are in place. During the winter, the School Caretaker and Headteacher (or the Deputy Head in her absence) monitor local weather forecasts in order to react to situations as quickly as possible and implement any special measures. These include appropriate staff starting work as early as possible to commence the gritting plan.

Priority 1

- A path 1 metre wide from inside the main gate across the playground to all building entrances is cleared. This includes the Nursery site.
- The paved area in front of the main school entrance and along the side of the building on the paved area only to the corner of York Street/Victoria Road.

Priority 2

The paved area running parallel to the school building from the corner of York Street/Victoria Road along to the far end of the school building will be gritted. This will **NOT** include the pavement which is maintained by the highways department.

Please see attached plans for the areas to be gritted in the main school and early years centre.

In addition:

- Cleared paths are treated with salt/grit to maintain a clear pathway especially where temperatures remain below freezing.
- Caretaker to ensure any puddles/areas of water in this area are cleared away to prevent icing over. Any icy puddles to be cleared/gritted or coned off.
- Any areas within the school boundary which remain in a dangerous condition, will be closed off and marked clearly using signs/cones/tape, as appropriate, and staff will be made aware as soon as possible.
- parents and carers are responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of their children on the way to school and outside of the school gate
- Where playgrounds remain excessively slippery due to compacted snow and ice, it may be necessary for pupils to remain indoors at break times and dinner times.
- Communication with staff is via e mail, briefing, the staffroom whiteboard and individual communication to classrooms via a memo where required.
- All staff must be made aware of the risk assessment and the gritting plan.
- Parents are advised during the autumn term of the plans and procedures put in place for dealing with snow and ice around school premises.
- Should a decision be taken to close the school due to bad weather, the parents will be informed via text (Teachers2Parents), through the school websites and notices on school buildings. Staff are informed via the Emergency Telephone Tree system.