



SNOW CLEARANCE AND GRITTING POLICY

RATIONALE

This policy for snow and ice clearance is based on the simple priority of ensuring the school site remains open yet safe at all times for staff, children, parents and visitors throughout periods of inclement weather. The first priority is to ensure access and exit to and from the school site for all school users. This must be done following the basic priority of safety for all users. The policy is in place to allow a set procedure to be followed which is initially triggered by the Head Teacher making a decision on the safety of opening the school. Once triggered, the gritting procedure will be implemented. In the event that the Head Teacher feels that it is not safe to open the school, everyone will be contacted by text advising them of the decision to close the school. The Head Teacher will strive to make the decision as early as possible, taking into consideration difficulties that staff may face in getting into school and the forecast for the whole day. This will ensure that staff and parents can be informed prior to making a journey in what is likely to be difficult traffic conditions. On occasions, the decision making process may be delayed/changed due to severe snow occurring shortly after the decision to open the school has been relayed to staff/parents.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Head Teacher, Deputy Head and Office Staff

1. Responsible for ensuring that school is fully equipped with appropriate snow clearing and protective equipment, and adequate stocks of rock salt and sand/grit etc.
2. Responsible to ensure snow and ice clearance is undertaken at the earliest possible time in the event of SMO absence due to him being unable to travel to school or illness.
3. Responsible to ensure snow and ice clearance is continued throughout the day if necessary.
4. Responsible for outlining in this policy (school gritting plan), the prioritisation of routes to be gritted and appropriate access routes to use during bad weather.
5. Responsible for drafting and reviewing the school's' gritting plan every two years or immediately in the event of any changes to the school grounds.

Site Maintenance Officer (SMO)

1. Responsible for monitoring the weather forecast and preparing the premises for ice or snow conditions
2. Responsible for the immediate clearance of snow and ice in designated areas in line with the school gritting plan.

3. Responsible for ensuring that equipment provided to clear snow and ice is adequate for the purpose and maintained in a satisfactory condition and supplies of rock salt and sand/grit mix are monitored throughout the winter period and replenished promptly.
4. Responsible for temporary closing access areas around the school in line with the school gritting plan and displaying the appropriate signs and/or taping off these areas. Records of clearance and access route closures should be kept.
5. Responsible for informing the Head Teacher at the earliest possible time of inability to journey to school due to road conditions or illness.

Governing Body

1. Responsible for agreeing the winter plan for the school including snow and ice clearing procedure.
2. Responsible for providing sufficient resources to implement the plan.
3. Responsible for monitoring that the snow and ice procedure is being carried out.

Staff

1. Responsible for reporting to the SMO/Head Teacher any situation where the recommended action contained within the gritting plan has not been carried out.
2. Responsible for safeguarding own and colleagues' health and safety in bad weather.
3. Staff should also wear footwear/clothing appropriate to the conditions.

Parents

1. Responsible for adhering to the designated, gritted pathways in school.
2. Responsible for collecting their child during the day should conditions worsen.
3. Responsible for ensuring that the school has their up to date telephone numbers in order for text messages/telephone calls to be received.
4. Responsible for wearing suitable footwear for the conditions when bringing and collecting children from school.
5. Responsible for ensuring that their child is wearing sensible footwear and warm coats according to the conditions.
6. Responsible for supervising their child before and after school and ensuring that children do not play on any ungritted areas outside of the school day (before 8.45am and after 3.30pm).

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their own safety. This is particularly important when there is a chance that an area may be slippery. It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there is no SMO available to grit the paths. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises later in the day. The paths along Keepers Lane are outside of the school's responsibility; if they are dangerous we will alert the Highways department to the situation and request their attention. Text messages will alert parents of any school closure or specific safety advice. 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 collect children.

Gritting Plan

- **Safe Green Route** (will always be gritted if the school is open) – pathway leading from the public footpath on Keepers Lane, down the drive, along both pedestrian entrances in to school (left and right). LEFT: along the path past Woodlands Pre-school and towards the main entrance of the school. RIGHT: A pathway towards the KS1 entrance door across the playground

- **Amber Route** (will be gritted in addition to the green route on typical icy days but not in exceptional circumstances and/or extreme weather.

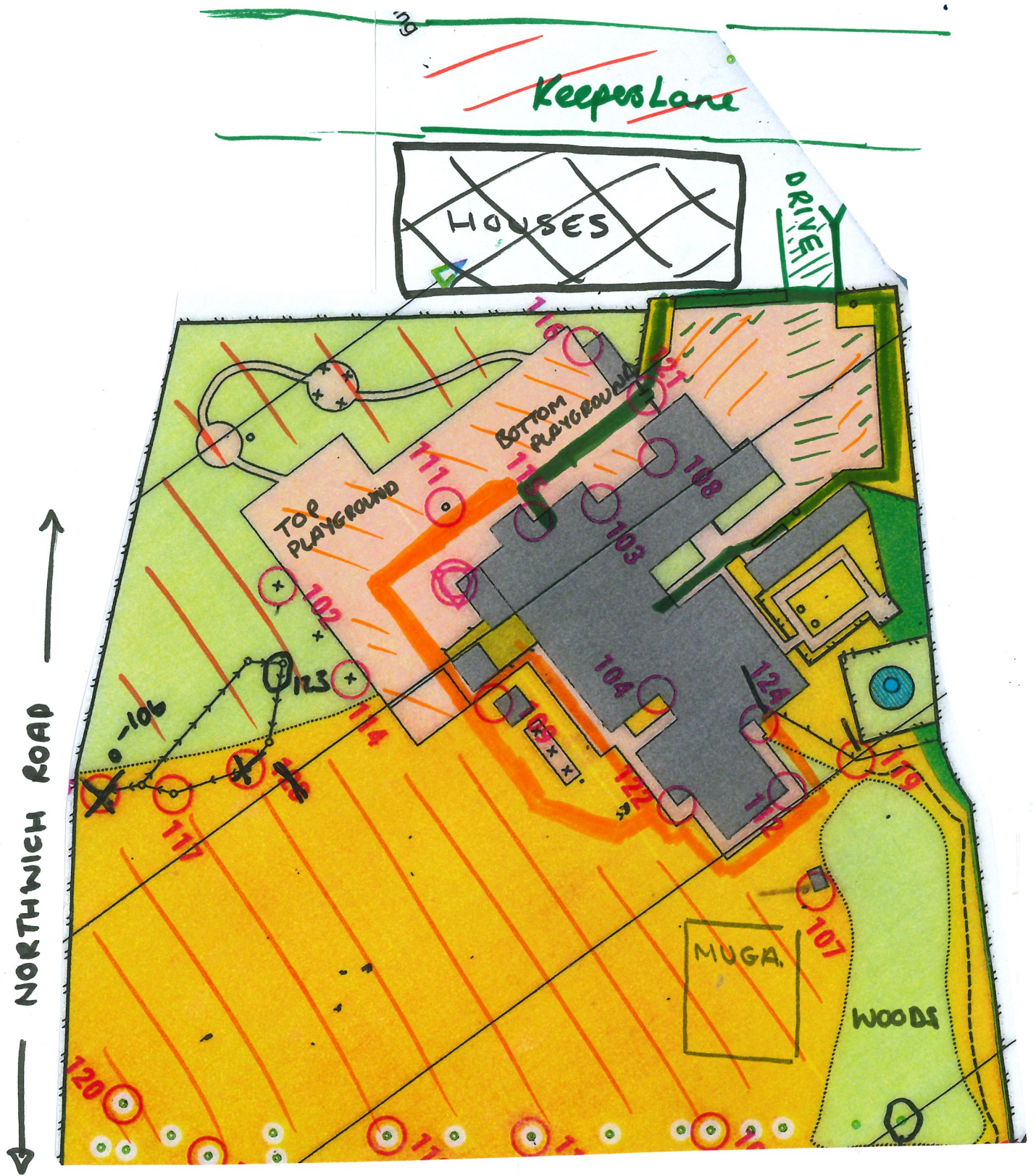
The Amber Route will run as the GREEN route and then from the KS1 entrance around the school perimeter passing Y1, Y2, Y5 and Y6 classroom doors, toward the KS2 entrance. Grittign og the bottom playground and carpark

- **Red Areas** – The top playground, field and play equipment will not be gritted. Extreme caution should be exercised when supervising movement around the premises. If time allows the top playground may be cleared.

Please note:-

- It is not practical to grit large areas of grounds, therefore if it is thought that playground areas are unsafe due to underfoot conditions they will not be used during the day. However, should the Head Teacher decide that it is safe for the children, they will be permitted to play out during playtime and lunchtime.
- At the beginning/end of the day adults collecting children must use the clearly gritted pathways.
- It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there is no SMO available to grit the paths. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises later in the day.
- The paths along Keepers Lane are outside of the school's responsibility; if they are dangerous, we will alert the Highways department to the situation and request their attention.

Policy agreed Autumn 2024



← FARMER'S FIELD →