



Christ Church CEVC Primary School

*Aspire, celebrate and learn...*

## **SNOW AND ICE POLICY & PROCEDURES**

### **Gritting Procedures**

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their own safety. This is particularly important when there is a chance than an area may be slippery, such as during cold weather and/or snow, when there is a danger of ice having formed.

At Christ Church CEVC Primary School, the following policy will be followed if it is apparent that pedestrian paths on site are slippery due to ice / snow cover.

The following areas will be gritted:

#### **Berryfield Building:**

- Pedestrian path to main entrance, including ramp
- Pedestrian path to kitchen door
- A pathway from the black gates by scooter / bike racks, around the edge of the playground area, across to the corner of the Berryfield building, along the tarmac path and around edge of the building to the rear entrance

#### **Christ Church Building:**

- Pedestrian path from gates to KS2 playground
- A pathway in front of the Upper KS2 classrooms on the playground
- Paved area outside the KS2 Hall
- Pedestrian path from Christ Church building to Berryfield building

#### **Year 6 Block:**

- A pathway across the KS2 playground to the pupil entrance

#### **Mobile buildings:**

- All ramps and steps to entrances

As resources become available, other areas will be gritted and cleared. It may be possible for paths to have become unsafe during the day when there are no staff available to grit them. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises later in the day.

Paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility.

Children should not bring cycles or scooters to school on these days to help reduce the risk to themselves and others.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the playgrounds or thrown snow on the school estate.

Adults are asked to inform the school immediately if they feel any areas of the school appear to be unsafe.



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A visual plan of the gritting areas is attached.

### **Breaktimes**

Playtimes may be changed during snow. Please ensure children have boots and warm outdoor clothes in school, in order that they may enjoy playing on the field if the weather conditions allow.

Children may be allowed to play on the school field, if considered by staff to be safe, but will be informed that they will not be allowed to

- Slide on either flat or inclined surfaces
- Throw snowballs, at other pupils or adults, above the shoulder
- Use the outdoor play equipment, unless a member of staff considers it safe for them to use it
- Run on paved or tarmacked surfaces

It is not practical to grit or clear large areas of ground, therefore, if it is thought that the playgrounds are unsafe, due to conditions, they will not be used during the day and playtimes may be held inside.

### **Collection at the end of the day**

At the end of the school day, the children should be collected from their classrooms as normal unless notified by signage / letters home of any change, however, if the area is deemed unsafe, the children may have to exit via another route.

### **Closure of the school**

Christ Church CEVC Primary School will endeavour to remain open during bad weather conditions. However, the opening of the school will depend on a number of factors. Firstly, it will depend on how many staff are able to travel to work safely. Christ Church CEVC Primary School will not remain open unless satisfactory staff : child ratios can still be maintained. Secondly, whether the building is at a suitable temperature for the children and that access to the school is safe for children, staff, parents and emergency services (if required) during the school day.

A decision will be made each day by the Headteacher, or their nominated representative from the Senior Leadership Team, as to whether the school opens. Parents will be informed by a ParentMail email and text alert, a message on the school website, or by listening to local radio broadcasts from Heart Wiltshire or BBC Radio Wiltshire. Please note that the school office and telephones will not be manned during these times.

If weather conditions worsen throughout the day, we may need to make the decision to close early in order to ensure that all children and staff are able to get home safely. If this is the case, we will contact parents via the ParentMail text / email services as soon as possible, to give them time to arrange for early collection of the children.

In conclusion, we will do our best to keep the school open but the safety of the staff, the children, and those who accompany them to school has to be our main priority.