

Gladstone Primary School Gritting Policy

What the school does to assist in the event of icy weather conditions?

At Gladstone it is not practical to grit the entire site, but as part of the Gritting Policy safe routes have been identified and communicated to staff, pupils and parents. There is a gritting priority plan included at Appendix 1.

The Janitor arrives at 7.30am each morning and in extreme conditions is assisted by other members of staff if necessary. It is the Janitor's responsibility to monitor grit / salt supplies and to inform the Office in advance if more grit is needed.

The perimeter gates will remain locked in the mornings until 8.30am so that entry into school can be controlled, thereby minimising the risks to children parents and visitors. Similarly, the gates are closed until 3.10pm when they are open until 3.45pm.

Members of the SLMT will monitor the main play grounds & routes in to school when the gates are open.

At break times a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the HT / DHT in consultation with the members of staff on duty and / or Senior Lunchtime Supervisor.

In extreme conditions it may be necessary to close the main drive to all vehicles before, during and after school and some paths deemed unsafe. In this case the paths will be cordoned off.

In extreme cases the Headteacher may decide that there is no option but to close the school if there is presented a severe health and safety risk.

This done the Chair of Governors and both local radio stations will be informed.

The school will only notify parent by BBC Radio Stoke and Signal Radio IF the school is closed

What the school expects of the users of the school site during icy weather conditions?

Good communication is essential.

Parents / carers will receive a copy of specific instructions during the Autumn and Winter months via the newsletters and the website.

Children will have the processes explained to them in the classroom / assemblies.

It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends & relatives who may also come to school.

The school will use the web-site and local radio stations to communicate with parents / carers.

During these conditions we all have difficulty getting to our place of work and dropping off children around the City. We ask parents to be responsible and plan more time for their journey, suitable footwear for children, wrapping up to keep warm etc.

Parents should not expect to be able to park close to the school at these times and are asked NOT to use Tideswell Road as a drop off zone or collection point for children. Similarly, as in all weathers, parents are asked to park safely and with consideration to our neighbours on both Tideswell Road and Wood Street.

Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted pavement areas and paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

In extreme conditions the HT may deem it necessary to cordon off some paths and expect all visitors / parents on site to use alternative routes around the site.

Under NO circumstances should parents, staff or children use the main drive / roads through the school as footpaths.

In extreme conditions the HT may deem it necessary to close the school. Having spoken to the Chair of Governors the two local Radio Stations will be contacted and an announcement made. Parents should listen to the B.B.C. Radio Stoke or Radio Signal and / or check the school web site for up to date information rather than try to contact the school directly by telephone.

NB The school will only make an announcement IF the school is closed.

If the school remains open pupils are expected to attend if parents / carers judge it safe to do so.

