Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School
Gritting Policy

Date: January 2026
Review Date: January 2027

Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School is committed to complying with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and other regulations that require, so far as reasonably practicable, the provision and maintenance of a safe means of access to and egress from the premises.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their own safety. During winter the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls is increased by the presence of snow and ice on footpaths and other areas of pedestrian traffic. This is especially relevant at the start of the school day.

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures for gritting and snow clearance to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls during winter conditions.

Responsibilities

- School Leadership Team (SLT): Oversees implementation and ensures resources are available.
- Designated Staff (SLT/Fox Cubs): Carry out gritting as required.
- All Staff and Visitors: Exercise personal responsibility and caution when moving around the site during icy conditions.

General Principles

- The school will prioritise **safe access routes** for pedestrians and emergency services.
- Gritting will be carried out **where reasonably practicable**, focusing on high-traffic areas.
- Large open areas (e.g. playgrounds) will not be gritted; these will be restricted if deemed to be unsafe.
- Individuals must remain vigilant and act responsibly in adverse conditions.

Operational Procedure

1. **Pre-treatment**
    - If severe frost or snow is forecast, designated routes will be gritted the evening before, where possible.
    - Weather updates will be monitored via local forecasts and school communication channels.

2. **Morning Treatment**
    - On icy mornings, gritting will begin before staff and pupils arrive, prioritising:
        - Path from main gate to hall doors.
        - Path from main gate to front door.
        - Path to each classroom including the mobile classrooms and Treehouse.

3. **During the Day**
    - Additional gritting will be applied if conditions worsen, ensuring safe egress at the end of the school day.

4. **Areas Not Treated**
    - Playgrounds and large open spaces will not be gritted. These areas will be closed if unsafe.
    - Pedestrian side access from the footpath.
    - Access road and path to school outside of the school gates.
    - The carpark. Colleagues need to exercise extreme caution during icy conditions.

External Areas

- Paths and roads outside of the school boundary are not the responsibility of the school.

Communication

- Staff will be reminded of the policy at the start of each winter term.
- Parents will be informed via newsletters and the school website about restricted areas during icy conditions.

Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually before winter or following any incident or significant change in circumstances.

Key Safety Message

Whilst every effort will be made to maintain safe access, individuals must take care and act responsibly in icy conditions. Please bear in mind the council do not grit the access road or the road into Summerlug. Parents/carers are responsible for their children if using areas which have not been treated.