

Chapmanslade

Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Gritting & Extreme Weather Conditions Policy

Rationale

Chapmanslade School has a duty of care towards staff, pupils and other visitors legitimately using the school site during the school's opening hours. It is impossible for school staff to mitigate all risks associated with extreme wintry conditions resulting in snow and/or ice on paths. However, this policy outlines arrangements designed to minimise the risks.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that governors, staff, parents and pupils are provided with a clear understanding of the measures that can practicably be taken by school staff to keep the site safe, and the procedures that all stakeholders are expected to follow in the event of snow and/or icy conditions in order to minimise injury risks to themselves or others.

Responsibilities During Icy Conditions

Chapmanslade does not employ a caretaker. When possible, ensuring no risk to themselves, the head teacher, school business manager or senior teacher will endeavour to -

1. Place notices warning of slippery conditions.
2. Grit the main access paths during icy weather before the school gates are opened.

It may therefore be necessary to open the school gate later than usual during icy conditions.

Gritting will be done in order of priority as follows:

- Internal paths between lower and upper school buildings
- Front steps
- Route from steps to front door
- Path from front door to the top gate

If it has been necessary to grit, **the playground will be out of bounds to all pupils** on arrival at school. Parents must ensure that pupils and younger siblings do not access ungritted areas (playground) and do not run or slide on the paths.

In the event of the school remaining open after overnight snowfalls, the head teacher, school business manager or senior teacher will endeavour to clear and grit a path in line with the priority list above when it is possible to do so at no personal risk of injury.

Please note that the head teacher, school business manager or teachers from Chapmanslade School do NOT have the capacity to clear snow or spread grit on the pavement outside school, the driveway, the path through the churchyard or the car park. All visitors to the school have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others and must act reasonably in the circumstances.

School Closure

In the event of school closure due to **extreme weather overnight** that prevents staff and pupils from safely travelling to school, the following procedures will be followed **where possible**:

- A decision to close the school will be made by 7:30am after consultation between the head teacher, staff and chair of governors.
- BBC Radio Wiltshire and Heart FM will be notified. These stations broadcast a list of school closure details at 15 minute intervals and also update the school closure lists on their respective websites.
- A message will be posted on the school website.
- All parents will be contacted by email or text.
- A decision about whether the school will reopen or remain closed for a subsequent day will be made by 4:00pm and the school website will be updated.
- Busy Bees Pre-School will remain shut while the school is shut.

If extreme weather conditions develop **during the school day**, potentially preventing staff and pupils from safely travelling home, the school will shut early and the following procedures will be followed:

- All parents will be contacted by email or telephone.
- A message will be posted on the school website.
- Pupils will be dismissed only to the person who usually collects them unless we have alternative instructions from the parent via email or answer machine message.
- In the event of unavoidable parent delay, remaining children will be supervised safely in school by a member of staff (or a school governor in extreme circumstances) and communication with the delayed parent(s) will be maintained where possible.
- Busy Bees Pre School will make its own decision about early closure in liaison with the head teacher.

General Responsibilities of Stakeholders

- Parents and staff must ensure that accurate and up-to-date contact details are held by the school.
- Parents and staff must read school newsletters and other information that is sent home so that clear communication is maintained. 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 drop and collect children.
- Pupils must follow all school rules and should be actively encouraged to do so by parents.
- When winter weather conditions are forecast, staff and parents should allow additional journey time to get to school punctually, bearing in mind that on-site parking or parking close to the school may not be possible.
- During extreme weather, staff and parents must check the relevant websites for information about possible school closure but must also take personal responsibility for any decision to travel bearing in mind their own individual circumstances.

- Parents must ensure that pupils are adequately dressed during the winter months with coats, hats and gloves, and with adequate outdoor footwear (that may be changed on arrival at school).
- School Business Manager to ensure adequate equipment and supplies of gritting salt are kept on the premises.

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Reviewed November 2021

Reviewed November 2023

To be reviewed November 2025