

Paxcroft Primary School

Gritting Policy

Reviewed: December 2024

Next date of review: December 2026



This policy is used in conjunction with the Wiltshire Council Gritting Policy November 2021 and the arrangements in place by Wiltshire Council for [dealing with winter maintenance](#). The school recognises that it has a responsibility to provide employees, pupils and others who enter the premises with a safe environment in which to work and learn.

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

During the winter the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls is increased by the presence of snow and ice, especially at the start of the school day, on foot paths and other areas of pedestrian traffic.

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 such as during periods of cold weather and/or snow when there is a danger of ice having formed.

Gritting Arrangements

The school will take the following steps to ensure safe access and egress:

- The school will treat specific access routes as detailed below ideally the evening before, if there is good reason to believe that local conditions would otherwise be hazardous due to snow and ice. It is acknowledged that the school will not always have prior knowledge of inclement weather conditions.
- The school will clear and/or grit access routes as identified in the site plan either the evening before or as soon as possible on the morning of inclement weather. This will occur, if reasonably practicable, before the arrival of other staff and pupils.
- 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.
- During the school day further applications of grit will be applied when required to ensure safe egress from the site at the end of the school day.
- Whilst every effort will be made to clear snow and ice it must be remembered that individuals have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others. This means being aware of the potential hazards of walking or driving in icy conditions and acting reasonably in the circumstances.
- Paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility – if they present significant or immediate danger, we will alert the Highways Department to the situation and request their attention.
- The school will review the effectiveness of the winter gritting policy before each winter or if circumstances change.

Gritting Locations

The following areas will be gritted (as shown on the attached site plan by a blue line) as required:

- Pathway from the main gates to doors outside of Falcon class.
- Access ramp from main gates to the entry doors near staff room (marked with a yellow dot on the plan) and steps from main pathway to the entry doors by the staff room.
- All Year 5&6 children to use the entrance doors near to the staff room in adverse weather conditions. Children in Year 3/4 can also use this entrance.
- Pathway from back gate, along playground edge to allow access to Robin, Wren, Kingfisher, Woodpecker and Nightingale classes.
- Undercover walkway between Nightingale class and the main school building. Year 3/4 children can enter here for access to their classrooms (entrance marked with an orange dot on the plan).
- Pathway from Falcon class doors, past main Reception and along playground edge past the school hall.

The following areas will not be gritted:

- Car parking spaces
- Playgrounds (aside from the marked pathways on the attached site plan)
- Walkway behind Housemartin, Skylark, Swift and Nightingale classes (do not use external classroom doors in adverse weather- exit/entry via the points marked on the plan as yellow dots).

Communications

The School will communicate gritting arrangements to key persons such as staff, parents/guardians and students who may travel unaccompanied.

FAQs

Which areas should be gritted?

As a minimum, the school will ensure that a path from the school boundary to the main Reception entrance is gritted for pedestrian access.

What about larger sites?

As a school with two main access points for pedestrians it is necessary to state within the policy which access points will be gritted and any that will not (we grit both entrances).

What about car parks?

The car park circulation areas will be gritted as far as practicable. However, parking spaces themselves will not be gritted. Please do not use the car park as a pedestrian walkway – stick to the main paths as these will be gritted.

What do we use for gritting?

Grit is also known as rock-salt which reduces the freezing temperature of water. The school uses rock-salt which is the same as the material used to grit highways.

Which roads are treated by the local authority?

The local authority does not treat all roads leading to schools. Information on which public highways are treated can be found here [Gritting and snow clearance - Wiltshire Council](#).

When should pathways be gritted?

The best times will be early in evening before the frost settles and/or early in the morning before employees arrive. Ideally pathways are gritted when damp or wet so that it can stick to surfaces.

Location maps

