

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

# Snow & Ice Plan

Co-ordinator: Clare Tayton/Jonathan Verity

Last review: February 2024

Next review: February 2025



**“Be responsible, be fair, stay positive and care”**

**John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes**  
**Snow & Ice Plan**

<b>Name of School:</b>	<b>John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>19/02/24</b>
<b>Policy Approved by:</b>	<b>Premises Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Review date:</b>	<b>February 2025</b>

This policy for snow and ice clearance is based on a priority for ensuring the school site remains open yet safe at all times for staff and students throughout periods of inclement weather.

The policy requires a set procedure to be followed which is initially triggered by the Headteacher making a positive decision on the safety of opening the school. Once triggered, the gritting procedure will be implemented.

If it is felt that the site should not be opened, staff and parents will be contacted via text message and email informing them of the decision to close the school. The Headteacher will strive to make the decision as early as possible, taking into consideration difficulties that staff may face in getting into school, safe supervision ratios and the weather forecast for the whole day.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Headteacher and SLT**

- Outline in the school gritting plan (below), the prioritisation of routes to be gritted and appropriate access routes to use during bad weather.
- Carry out a review of these procedures (including this policy, risk assessment and gritting plan) in the first half of the autumn term to ensure their continued relevance.
- Liaise with the School Business Manager to confirm expectations of this policy.
- Ensuring that equipment provided to clear snow and ice is adequate for the purpose and maintained in a satisfactory condition. Supplies of rock salt and sand/grit mix should be monitored throughout the winter period and replenished promptly
- Ensure the school is fully equipped with appropriate snow clearing and protective equipment, and adequate stocks of rock salt and sand/grit etc.

#### **Premises Team**

- The immediate clearance of snow and ice in designated areas in line with the school gritting plan
- Temporarily closing access areas around the school in line with the school gritting plan. Such areas should be clearly marked (e.g. signage or tape). Records of clearance and access route closures should be kept.

## Staff

- Reporting to the Premises Team/School Business Manager/Headteacher any situation where the recommended action contained within the gritting plan has not been carried out.
- Safeguarding own and colleagues' health and safety in bad weather.
- Wear footwear/clothing appropriate to the conditions

## Parents/ Carers

- Adhering to the designated, gritted pathways into school
- Supervise their child(ren) before and after school
- Ensure that their child(ren) are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats according to the conditions
- Collect their child during the day should conditions worsen (if requested by the school).

## School Gritting Plan

Gritting is to be carried out when frost, ice or snow is forecast or when walkways are likely to be damp or wet and the floor temperatures are at, or below, freezing. The best times are early in evening before the frost settles and/or early in the morning before employees arrive. Salt doesn't work instantly; it needs sufficient time to dissolve into the moisture on the floor.

Efforts will be made to ensure gritting does not take place during heavy rain. This is because the salt will be washed away causing a problem if the rain then turns to snow. Compacted snow, which turns to ice, is difficult to treat effectively with grit.

'Dawn frost' can occur on dry surfaces, when early morning dews form and freeze on impact with cold surfaces. It can be difficult to predict when or where this condition will occur therefore staff and others are reminded to take extra care.

Actions to be taken immediately prior to adverse weather	Responsibility
Checking weather forecasts on a daily basis during winter months. (email alerts set up for <a href="mailto:jonathan.verity@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk">jonathan.verity@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk</a> & <a href="mailto:office@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk">office@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk</a> via <a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk">www.metoffice.gov.uk</a> )	SBM
Ensuring any particular equipment e.g. snow shovels are easily accessible for when bad weather hits	SBM/Premises Team
Checking sufficient salt supplies are in place and their locations are known	SBM/Premises Team
Identifying and agreeing times when gritting will need to be done	HT/SBM/Premises Team

Actions to be taken during times of snow/ ice	Responsibility
Ensuring barriers/ signage/ instructions are provided to ensure access is restricted to the following high-risk areas of the school.	Premises Team
Although paths outside the school are outside the school's area of responsibility – if they are dangerous Southwark Highways should be alerted to the situation - <a href="https://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads">https://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads</a> Southwark's Winter Maintenance Policy And Service Plan can be accessed here - <a href="https://adobe.ly/3tXhB1j">https://adobe.ly/3tXhB1j</a>	Headteacher/SBM
Regularly checking paths throughout the day to ensure re-freezing or further snow coverage has not occurred. If it has areas will be re-cleared and gritted as necessary.	Premises Team

The following areas of the school grounds have been classed as priority areas for gritting: Gritting will take place during both **early morning and early evening (or in the case of icy conditions forecast over the weekend, gritting to be carried on Friday evening)**:

<b>John Ruskin Main School - Areas to be gritted (e.g. path from main entrance to reception, area of yard around play equipment etc).</b>
Main gate entrance area on John Ruskin Street
Middle Playground area up to Reception playground gate
Steps and entrance door to Green Stairs
Ramp to Yellow Stairs
Ramp to Side Door to School Office
Rear gate walkway and gate area on Grosvenor Terrace

<b>Language Unit and John Ruskin Nursery - Areas to be gritted (e.g. path from main entrance to reception, area of yard around play equipment etc).</b>
Walkway towards LU garden
LU garden areas
Big playground – running track and in running track centre
LU fire escape steps
Nursery entrance door ramp

Nursery playground area including nursery gate on John Ruskin Street
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Priority areas for gritting:

