

Gritting Policy



Approved by:	Eileen Harvey	Date: 02.09.2026
Last reviewed on:	01.09.2026	
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The Inspirational Learning Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Whitfield Valley Primary Academy

Inclement Weather Gritting Policy

This policy reaffirms the gritting procedures that Whitfield Valley Primary Academy has in place.

In the event of adverse ice/snow the Site staff will make an assessment of the paths and roads and classify the priority gritting areas. This will be confirmed by the Head Teacher via a telephone conversation as necessary, but the Site staff will grit appropriately on a general basis. They will not be required to telephone the Head Teacher unless the weather is extremely severe and there is a possibility that the school will have to be closed, weather reports will be taken account of. Grit will be applied via a spreader or other appropriate method of applying grit.

Priority Gritting Access on Heavy Snow Fall Days

To ensure safe access for pupils, staff and parents/carers the following priority areas will be gritted & snow removed (it is not possible to grit the entire site):

1. The main entrance into school car park and pathways that surround it.
2. The pathway from the carpark up to the main school office entrance.
3. The pathway from the top exit gate down to the main school office entrance.

THESE WILL BE THE ONLY AREAS THAT WILL BE GRITTED AND CLEARED TO ENSURE THAT ALL USERS CAN ACCESS AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE.

ALL STAFF AND CHILDREN AND PARENTS/CARERS SHOULD USE THE MAIN SCHOOL ENTRANCE ON A SNOWY DAY. A TEXT WILL BE SENT TO ALL USERS AT APPROXIMATELY 7AM TO INFORM THEM THAT THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO BE USED ON THAT DAY WILL BE THE MAIN SCHOOL OFFICE. STAFF IN HIGH VISIBILITY VESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE TO DIRECT PEOPLE ACCORDINGLY ON THESE DAYS.

The Site staff will make the staff car park and path their first gritting/snow removal priority at 7.00am and then move on to the paths as stated above.

IF THERE IS A SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING THE GRITTING PROCESS ALL USERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AS REASONABLE PROCEDURES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

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Priority Gritting Access on Frosty/Icy Days

To ensure safe access for pupils, staff and parents/carers the following priority areas will be gritted (it is not possible to grit the entire site):

1. The main entrance into school car park and pathways that surround it.
2. The pathway from the carpark up to the main school office entrance.
3. The pathway from the top exit gate down to the main school office entrance.
4. All usual entrance and exit points will be gritted in advance of the start of the normal school day

Further Checks

All external areas will be checked, if necessary, at break time by Academy staff and at dinner time by the lunchtime staff. If conditions worsen towards the end of the day they will be checked by a member of the SLT and appropriate action taken.

Staff/Parents/Carers and children are advised to allow more time for their journey during snow and icy conditions. They will also be advised to wear suitable footwear and parents/carers are advised where possible to walk their children to school. Registers will be kept open longer on such days and children that arrive at school will be marked present and NO late marks will be given on such adverse snow days.

Cars on-site

In extreme weather conditions, the main gates may be closed and no parents/carers/visitors cars allowed on the premises, including disabled drivers. Staff cars may enter at their own risk.

This information will be regularly communicated to parents/carers via the text messaging and email communication method