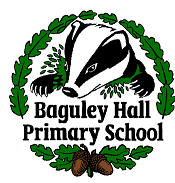


Baguley Hall Primary School



Adverse Weather Policy & Snow and Ice Gritting Procedures

Statement of intent

It is the aim of Baguley Hall Primary School to ensure the school remains open, during adverse weather conditions, providing that this can be done in a safe manner.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To make the appropriate procedures clear, in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions.
- To make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.
- To advise and inform staff and parents/carers of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equalities policy

Remaining open in adverse weather conditions

- If the school remains open when there has been snowfall or the site is icy, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted.
- All pathways, wherever practically possible, will have been cleared and gritted.
- At the headteacher's discretion, during periods of adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out-of-bounds to pupils and parents/carers.
- All persons entering the school buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet thoroughly, in order to reduce slip hazards.
- 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.
- Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted pavement areas and paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

Snow and Ice Gritting Procedure

- Due to the size of the school grounds, it is not practical to grit the entire site. Safe routes have been identified and communicated to staff, pupils and parents. There is a gritting priority plan included at Appendix 1.

Priority access routes for winter gritting will be:

1. The car park
2. The pedestrian path from the main front gate to main entrance/reception and paths at the front of school
3. Pedestrian path from the EYFS gate to Nursery and Reception class entrances
4. The path from the KS2 gate to the KS2 bottom corridor

Other priority areas for winter gritting will be:

5. EYFS quad
6. KS2 playground
7. KS1 playground

- The school will treat access routes and priority areas the night 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 know beforehand on all occasions.
- The Site Manager will clear and grit access routes and priority areas identified in the site plan (attached) as soon as possible on the morning of inclement weather. This will occur, if reasonably practicable, before the arrival of other staff and pupils.
- 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.
- If the Site Manager is absent, either the Site Manager or School Business Manager will contact Shield Force.

Possible school closure

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. If the school is anticipating closure either at the beginning of the school day or during the school day, the Headteacher will make the decision.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous.
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Information for Parents/Carers

If the school is to close:

- We will send a group text to all parents for which we have a mobile number and we will post on Facebook. *If you currently do not receive text messages from the school, please contact the school office (0161 998 2090) with a number we can text you on, as the number we have for you may be out of date.*
- The school web site will be updated regarding closure www.baguleyhall.manchester.sch.uk
- We will inform local radio station Hits Radio (103.0FM) who announce a list of school closures in the region.

- Information on school closure will appear on the council website homepage www.manchester.gov.uk

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents/carers informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places considerable difficulties upon parents/carers. However, parents/carers are expected to check the website and Facebook page and make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents/carers should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.

The school recognises there may be isolated instances where families are unable to get into school, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents/carers should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.

Parents/carers acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school, risk their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents/carers will be contacted by text and asked to collect their child. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Information for Staff

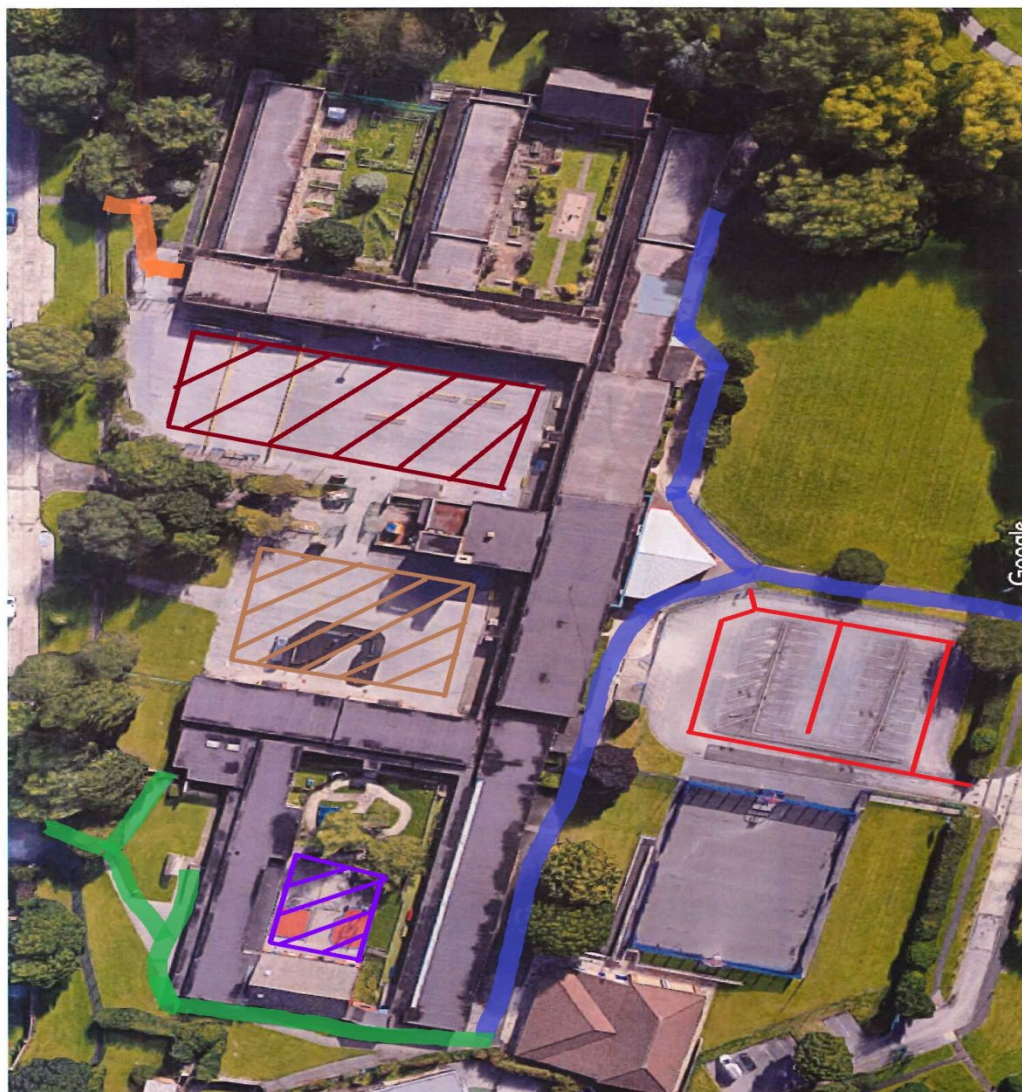
You are required to make all reasonable efforts to attend work during periods of severe weather. You must do your best to anticipate problems due to severe weather conditions and make arrangements as early as possible to deal with the situation. In the event of disruption to public transport, consideration should be given to the possibility of a car share with colleagues. It is important that you make every effort to communicate with the Headteacher about any problems you are having due to severe weather.

The SLT will consider if it is safe for children to play outside during playtimes and lunch times and will declare a 'wet play' if it is deemed to be unsafe.

In the Headteacher's absence, the Deputy Headteacher will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

October 2022

Appendix 1. School plan of priority areas to be gritted



Priority 1: Car park

Priority 2: Pedestrian path from Ackworth Drive to main entrance and breakfast club

Priority 3: Path from Oakmoor Road to EYFS and breakfast club

Priority 4: Path from Oakmoor Road to KS2

Priority 5: EYFS quad

Priority 6: KS2 playground

Priority 7: KS1 playground