



Churchfields
The Village School

Atworth ∞ Monkton Farleigh

SNOW AND ICE POLICY

Updated April 2016

CHURCHFIELDS – The Village School.

Snow and Ice Policy and Procedures.

1.Gritting Procedures.

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. Parents/carers are asked to recognize that the school has no specific or additional staff to keep paths clear, but the available teaching and non-teaching staff will do their best to keep pathways etc clear, as explained below.

At Churchfields School the following policy will be followed if it is apparent that pedestrian paths on site are slippery due to ice/snow cover or heavy frost.

The following areas will be the first priority for gritting/salting and being kept clear:-

Atworth base.

1. A pedestrian path to the main school yard.
2. The path to the mobile classrooms.
3. The ramp to the back of the school.

Monkton Farleigh base.

1. A path to the front entrance.
2. A path to the classroom doors.

As resources become available other areas will be gritted/salted and cleared.

It may be possible that despite efforts to clear these areas they become slippery, for instance if snow falls faster than it can be cleared, or early in the morning before clearance has been completed, or during the day when the teaching staff are involved in the classrooms. It is therefore very important that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises in conditions of ice, snow or heavy frost.

Paths outside the school are beyond the school's area of responsibility.

Children should not bring cycles or scooters to school during snow or icy weather to reduce the risk to themselves and others.

If at all possible parents/carers are asked not to bring vehicles onto Bradford Road or Monkton Farleigh as the roads can be treacherous in snowy conditions.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground or throw snow on the school estate.

Adults are asked to inform the school immediately if they feel any areas of the school are unsafe.

2.Breaktimes.

Playtime arrangements and timings may be changed during snow. Please ensure children have boots and warm outdoor clothes in school in order that they may enjoy playing on the field if conditions allow.

Children may be allowed to play on the school field, if considered by staff to be safe, but will be informed that they;

- Will not be allowed to slide on flat or inclined areas.
- Throw snowballs at other pupils.
- Use the climbing frame, unless a member of staff considers it safe for them to use it.
- Run on paved or tarmac areas.

It is not practical to grit large areas or clear grounds therefore if it is thought that playground areas are unsafe due to conditions they will not be used during the day, and playtimes may be held inside.

3.Collection at the end of the day.

At the end of the day, if the playground areas or the paths to them are considered unsafe, adults collecting children will be asked to come into school by the class entrances to meet their children in their classrooms and leave by the same door.

4.Closure of the school.

Churchfields School will endeavor to remain open during bad weather conditions. However the opening of the school will depend on a number of factors. Among other points, it will depend on how many members of staff are able to travel to work safely, and whether school buses are running on the day. Churchfields, The Village School will not remain open unless satisfactory staff/child ratios can still be maintained. Further, whether the building is at a suitable temperature for the children and access to the school is safe for children, staff, parents and emergency services, if required during the school day.

A decision will be made each day by the Headteacher/Senior member of staff as to whether the school opens. Parents will be informed by text/email or telephone no later than 7.45 am if a decision is made to close. Announcements will also be made on BBC Wiltshire and Heart Radio. Please note that the school telephone will not normally be manned at this time of day.

If weather conditions worsen throughout the day we may need to close early in order to ensure that all children and staff are able to get home safely. If this is the case we will contact you via telephone/HOMECONTACT as soon as possible to give you time to arrange for early collection of your children.

In conclusion we will do our best to keep School open, but the safety of the children and those who accompany them to school, and of the staff, has to be the priority.

5. Publicising this Policy

This policy will be published on the school's website.