



Icy Conditions and Winter
Weather Policy

1. Contents

1.	Contents	2
2.	Version control.....	3
3.	Introduction.....	4
4.	Policy Aims	4
5.	Lighting.....	4
6.	Wet and Decaying Leaves	4
7.	Rain Water.....	4
8.	Ice, Frost and Snow.....	5
9.	Gritting Plan.....	5
10.	Academy Closure due to Adverse Weather	6
11.	Monitoring and Review	6

2. Version control

Date	Version	Revision	Owner
18/09/17	1.0	New Policy	Future Generation Trust Policy Team

3. Introduction

Slip and trip accidents increase during the Autumn and Winter months for a number of reasons; there is less daylight, leaves fall onto paths and become wet and slippery and cold weather spells cause ice and snow to build up on paths and car parks.

4. Policy Aims

Future Generation Trust aim to provide, as far as is reasonably practicable, safe access and egress to and from academy sites for staff, pupils, members of the public and vehicles. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that each academy stays open as normal. Procedures may involve gritting, snow clearing and closure of some routes.

During the Autumn and Winter months the following procedures will apply to minimise the risks associated with adverse weather conditions.

5. Lighting

It is important to ensure that there is sufficient lighting around the site to enable staff, pupils and members of the public to see and avoid hazards that might be on the ground, both inside and outside of the academy.

The completion of regular building inspections will help identify any bulbs which need replacing around the site. External lights are on timers or sensors and these will be checked periodically to ensure that they are working effectively. Staff are also able to report any defects they notice which are recorded in a Defects Log.

6. Wet and Decaying Leaves

Fallen leaves that become wet or have started to decay can create slip risks in two ways; they hide any hazard that may be on the path or they themselves create a slip risk. Site Supervisors will regularly inspect paths and route ways and remove leaves as and when the need arises.

7. Rain Water

Many slip accidents happen at building entrances as people entering the facility walk in rain water or bring in rain water on umbrellas. To reduce the risk of slips during wet weather the entrances to our academies are fitted with anti-slip barrier matting.

During heavy rain our academy playing fields may become water logged and slippery. A decision will be made by the Headteacher and communicated to staff and pupils if it becomes necessary to close the playing field for PE or competitive matches.

8. Ice, Frost and Snow

To reduce the risk of slips on ice, frost and snow the following steps will be taken in the event of freezing temperatures being forecast.

The Headteacher will monitor the temperature, as prevention is key. They will also keep up to date by visiting weather service sites such as the Met Office www.metoffice.gov.uk or BBC Weather www.bbc.co.uk/weather and Highways England www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england .

Gritting will be carried out by the Site Supervisor (as described in the Gritting Plan below) when frost, ice or snow is forecast or when walkways are likely to be damp or wet and the ground temperatures are at, or below freezing. The best times are early in the evening before the frost settles and/or early in the morning before staff and pupils arrive. The decision to implement the Gritting Plan will be made by the Headteacher, or a Deputy Headteacher in their absence.

Where playgrounds and outside areas remain excessively slippery due to compacted snow and ice, it may be necessary for these areas to remain out of bounds. A decision will be made by the Headteacher, or a Deputy Headteacher in their absence and communicated to staff.

9. Gritting Plan

The following procedure will be followed to help prevent any icy surface forming and/or keep pedestrians off the slippery surface.

De-icing salt will be applied as soon as is reasonably practicable. Please note that de-icing salt does not always work instantly; it needs sufficient time to dissolve into the moisture on the floor so anyone arriving at an academy early, should take extra care. If a thaw is expected clearance work will only be done in key areas (e.g. steps and heavily used paths).

The first priority will always be to clear the main pedestrian entrances and pathways, paying special attention to steps and slopes. Pathways will be cleared to a width of 1 metre and de-icing salt applied. As time permits, other pathways will be cleared and salted. Slopes and steps will be regarded as a priority.

Academy car parks will not be cleared. However, pathways leading from car parks to building entrances will be cleared (if time allows) and treated with de-icing salt to maintain a clear pathway.

Vehicle-only entrances and roads will be the lowest priority for clearance and salting, unless they have steep slopes where cars could slide or get stuck.

Each academy will produce a drawing of the site identifying gritting priorities and communicate this to staff, pupils and parents.

In the event of prolonged periods of severe weather and stocks of de-icing salt diminishing the academy Gritting Plan will be reviewed in order to prioritise remaining stocks for high risk areas.

If deemed unsafe by the Headteacher, areas of the academy may be closed and/or the car park closed to all but staff.

10. Academy Closure due to Adverse Weather

The decision to close an academy will be made by the Headteacher, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team in their absence.

The procedures relating to the closure of an academy due to adverse weather should be implemented in line with the academy's Business Continuity Plan.

11. Monitoring and Review

The Future Generation Trust Board has overall responsibility for this policy and for reviewing its implementation and effectiveness. The Headteacher has day-to-day operational responsibility for this policy and must ensure that all staff are fully aware of its contents and trained accordingly.

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year cycle. However, it may be necessary to update the document earlier as a result of either an incident or a change in Health & Safety guidance.

Policy adopted on: 4 October 2017

Review Date: September 2019

Signed: Fliss Dale

Designation: Chair of Trust Board