



Plympton St Maurice Primary School Adverse/Extreme Weather Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

WeST holds a deep-seated belief in education and lifelong learning. Effective collaboration, mutual support and professional challenge will underpin our quest to ensure that all the children and adults we serve are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed in life.

Westcountry Schools Trust/Plympton St Maurice Primary will review this procedure annually.

Person(s) responsible for updating the policy:	Director of Estates
Version updated by:	Mark Bullard
Date Approved:	January 2022
Date of Review:	January 2027
Status:	Non- Statutory



1.0 Scope of Document:

This document sets out the procedure that is applied by Westcountry Schools Trust in the event of adverse weather (Ice and snow) and extreme hot weather.

It details both the trigger mechanism that is followed and, for the avoidance of doubt, the areas for which the gritting regime is applied during the winter months.

It also contains guidance to be applied during extended periods of extreme hot weather during the lead up to the summer break

Legislation:

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Adverse Winter Weather

2.0 Monitoring & Trigger Mechanism:

As per the industry standard the Met Office Exeter OPS Forecast will be used to determine whether gritting is necessary ([Weather and climate change - Met Office](#))

2.1 Ice

If the predicted temperature derived from the is 1°C or below overnight, a precautionary treatment of salt will be applied to Paths, Roads and Car Parks as per the site plan (Figure 1.)

Before the end of the day on weekdays, all footpaths, roads, and car parks will be treated.

Grit will be applied to areas in the following order:

1. Main thoroughfares (pedestrian and vehicular) if Required
2. The main thoroughfare will be gritted where space is available. Grit will be applied in the car parking spaces- if Applicable

Pictographic representation of gritting routes is indicated in (Figure 1.)

2.2 Snow

If snow fall is predicted, the school will assess the need to deploy sufficient numbers of staff on call to deal with the forecasted snow fall.

Priority and sequence of snow clearance will be the same as the gritting regime indicated above.

Met Office link: (To be amended to reflect location)

www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/gbvn9cv4h#?date=2022-01-05

2.3 Grit/Rock Salt

It is the responsibility of the Premises Manager/caretaker to ensure that there are suitable supplies of Grit/Rock Salt available at each school. Including the means to distribute such spreaders and shovels.

3.0 Supplementary Note:

All personnel are reminded that it is their **own responsibility** to wear the appropriate footwear for the conditions encountered underfoot in the event of adverse weather conditions.

4.0 Opening and Closing your school

Should a school be required to close refer to the open and close process when considering opening or closing your school.

Aerial Photograph of School site

(Figure 1): Adverse weather clearance areas

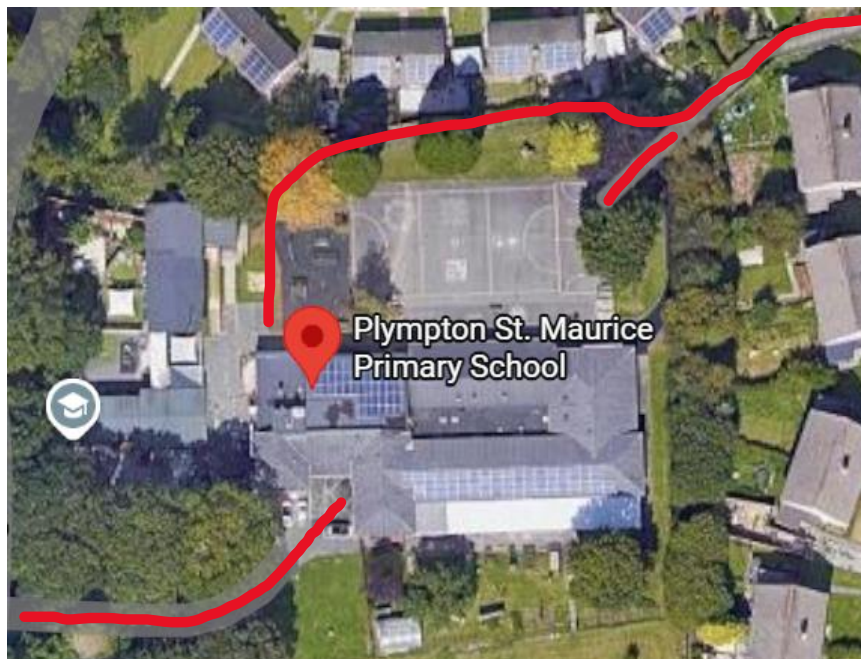


Figure 1 above shows an overview of the areas that needs to be gritted

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HOT WEATHER

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Determine if the school has concerns over excessive temperatures
- Plan for hot weather conditions
- Put in place appropriate measures to respond to hot weather conditions
- Keep measures under review during hot weather periods and take additional measures where required

INTRODUCTION

5.0

Hot summers can be a problem in schools due to excessive indoor temperatures. This rise in temperature can be aggravated by the design of many buildings especially in Edwardian schools and the glass/concrete constructions of the 1960s and 1970s.

Very high temperatures can affect the ability of staff and pupils to concentrate and to work effectively and can cause physical discomfort and illness. If people get too hot, they risk dizziness, fainting, or even epileptic fits or heat cramps.

In very hot conditions the body's blood temperature rises. If the blood temperature rises above 39°C, there is a risk of heat stroke or collapse. Delirium or confusion can occur above 41°C. Blood temperatures at this level can prove fatal and, even if people recover, they may suffer irreparable organ damage.

Thermal comfort is not just related to air temperature alone. It considers a range of other environmental and personal factors including radiant temperature, air velocity, humidity, clothing insulation and metabolic heat. These factors make up what is known as the "human thermal environment".

6.0

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES

There is no prescribed maximum temperature at which action needs to be taken to lower temperatures. However, schools must ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to achieve a comfortable temperature.

Realistically, considering the variable factors mentioned, the best that an employer/occupier can achieve is a thermal environment that satisfies most people and offers 'reasonable comfort'. The Health and Safety Executive considers 80% of occupants as a reasonable limit for the minimum number of people who should be thermally comfortable in an environment.

Most individuals will not suffer medical symptoms due to thermal discomfort, beyond irritability and tiredness. However, in some circumstances, exposure to excessive heat can result in more severe



conditions such as heatstroke and dehydration, leading to dizziness, fainting, confusion and heat cramps.

7.0 SUMMER HEAT PLANNING

If the establishment has a building that has historically overheated in the summer, being prepared can help to ease any discomfort felt by building users from overheating.

It is important that all schools have in place contingency plans to help staff and pupils cope with the heat. There is little that can be done to alleviate problems if schools do not plan and take note of the weather forecast for the week ahead.

By undertaking an assessment, establishments can identify high-risk individuals/activities/work locations and take the appropriate steps to reduce risks and reduce the potential impacts of extreme hot weather.

7.1 Controlling Indoor Hazards

The following are some suggested measures that may be taken:

RISK FACTOR	POSSIBLE CONTROLS
Heat Source: 1) Sun entering and heating a room 2) Additional heat sources in rooms	Stop sun/heat entering the room by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping lights off, if possible • Using blinds (Venetian or slatted blinds allow light in, while keeping sun rays out) • Reflective film on windows • Intelligent glazing systems • Moving workstation away from direct sunlight • Overhangs or awnings outside windows • Insulation - the material acts as a barrier reducing heat flow • Insulating hot pipes or equipment • Curtailing heat-generating activities e.g., Use of computers, Bunsen Burners, ovens etc.
Environmental: Air Movement 1) Lack of air movement	Improve air movement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring windows can be easily opened • Ensuring windows are open • Providing fans - wall or ceiling mounted are better
Environmental: Physical 1) Room retains heat	Improve physical conditions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocating classes to cooler areas

RISK FACTOR	POSSIBLE CONTROLS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working outside in shaded areas Rotating use of hot rooms
Task or Activity 1) Task is strenuous in nature 2) Lack of breaks during task 3) Task requires protective clothing	Amend the task being undertaken by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding strenuous activities or amending the task Restricting the length of time people are exposed to hot conditions Arranging for extra breaks to let people cool down
Individual 1) Person has medical condition 2) Person is elderly 3) Person is very young	Protect the individual by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing regular drinking water in the school Relaxing dress codes Monitor those with medical conditions Regularly checking on children's well-being
Information and Training 1) No awareness of thermal comfort issues	Improve staff and pupil awareness by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing staff of signs and symptoms of heat stress and treatment, hot weather plan procedures etc. Informing pupils of what they should do (e.g., plenty of fluids, dress codes etc.)

7.2 Sun Safety

During term time, children and adults can be found in an outdoors environment during the peak UV hours. Most skin cancers are caused by UV radiation from the sun. It is estimated that people get around 80% of their sun exposure by the age of 21. Much of this exposure occurs when at school.

SunSmart is the national skin cancer prevention campaign run by Cancer Research UK. Schools can become more 'SunSmart' by:

- developing their own school sun protection policy
- incorporating sun protection into the school curriculum
- making sure they provide sufficient shade in the school grounds
- warning staff and parents about the dangers of too much sun
- having in place suitable control measures

Further information is available from: www.sunsmart.org.uk



7.3 Controlling Outdoor Hazards

The following are some suggested measures that may be taken:

RISK FACTOR	POSSIBLE CONTROLS
Environment: 2) Lack of shade	Reduce sun exposure by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating shady areas using trees, awnings, overhangs, parasols etc.
Task: 1) Strenuous activities 2) Too much time in the sun	Reduce risk by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict activities outside to avoid the period between 11am-3pm • Reduce strenuous activities or carry out at cooler times • Arranging extra breaks to allow people to cool down
Individual: 1) Dehydration 2) Sunburn 3) Sunstroke	Reduce risks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing access to drinking water • Ensuring pupils and staff wear wide brimmed sun hats • Relaxing dress code (allow loose, light-coloured clothing that covers neck and shoulders etc.)
Training and Information: 1) No awareness of sun safety	Improve awareness by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating sun protection into curriculum • Promoting sun protection to pupils via assemblies, workshops, talks • Training teachers in the importance of sun protection • Informing parents of the importance of sun protection

8.0 SUN PROTECTION

Pupils and staff can be protected from the sun at break times/outdoor lessons by:

The Head teacher should decide whether children can bring in sun cream.

Due to child protection issues (**and not health and safety**) staff are advised not to assist children to apply sun creams (mainly applies to primary schools).



Children should attend school wearing sunscreen. If you wish your child to reapply during the day, they must be able to do this themselves (our younger children will be supervised) ensure the sunscreen bottle is named., Children should be discouraged from sharing creams

Pupils of all ages should be discouraged from bringing into school sun cream in spray and oils forms.