

15 November 2019

Dear parent/carer

As you will be aware, we regularly communicate about traffic and parking near the Academy. Last night (Thursday) was a low point in what continues to be a very challenging, very frustrating and, potentially, very dangerous situation.

As a consequence of the heavy rain, many more parents chose to pick up their children. The congestion due to this additional volume of traffic was exacerbated by a break down, an accident and some, quite frankly, ludicrous driving and parking.

As I am sure you would expect, my priority and that of my staff, is to ensure the safety of pupils. That is why you see us every evening ensuring pupils cross the road safely. That is why, when we are not assisting pupils, you also see us asking people to park legally, sensibly and considerately. But, let me be clear, we are not employed or trained to manage traffic or enforce the Highway Code.

I can quite understand why road users on Robins Wood Road and Prestwood Drive were frustrated last night; the roads were totally gridlocked at times. There is nothing any of us can do about broken down cars or accidents – or, for that matter, people who simply abandon their car in the middle of the road – but we can be less self-centred and far more considerate and patient of each other.

There are also some simple and obvious things drivers can do to help each other and prevent a repeat of last night's chaos:

- AVOID using your car if you can – encourage your child to walk, ride or use public transport to get to and from school.
- If you must drive, WAIT for your child further away from the school.
- DO NOT mount, or park on the pavement – particularly near pedestrians.
- DO NOT park on, or near, the corners of the junction between Prestwood Drive and Robins Wood Road.
- DO NOT make u-turns along Robins Wood Road or Prestwood Drive.
- DO NOT park on the yellow zig-zags outside the Academy and, ideally, anywhere on the Academy side of the road between our vehicle entrance and cones marking the bus stop.

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- DO NOT turn into Prestwood Drive from Robins Wood Road, or vice-versa, if the junction is not clear - you will end up blocking the road to other users travelling along Robins Wood Road.

We have repeatedly asked the council to provide additional safety measures, traffic and parking controls and regular enforcement but they do not believe this is necessary. If, like me, you think it is, I would encourage you to write to your local councillor about this.

In the meantime, please help me keep our pupils safe and the traffic flowing by driving and parking responsibly. I greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Tungate
Principal

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- We strive to fulfil everyone's learning potential. • We value high standards, hard work and a ceaseless desire to improve.
 - We provide a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment. • We enjoy the journey together.

