



William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England)
Primary School & Nursery
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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



28th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY UPDATES

Firstly, I would like to thank the many parents who have taken onboard the requests made in my last letter regarding parking and road safety. It has been reassuring to see so many children walking or scooting to school and the improvements seen on Vicarage Lane.

Latest news:

- Two scooter pods for parking scooters have been purchased following the successful bid placed with the Parish Council for a grant. A further two bike racks will be purchased with the funds awarded.
- Local PCSO (police community support officer) has visited school and observed road safety issues at school drop-off and pick-up.
- Parking signs purchased and placed along Vicarage Lane to encourage parents to park away, where possible, and to other road users to drive slowly on the approach to school.
- Senior leaders, governors and residents monitoring the parking and road use.

I am acutely aware that reducing the volume of traffic close to school results in parking problems in other neighbouring streets. Please can I request if you are parking on King Street or Castle Hill that you park responsibly and safely. Parking away from junctions, double yellow lines and not obstructing resident's driveways.

Within our parental body I am aware that some of you, or your extended family members, may have specific circumstances and disabilities that require you to park closer to school. Although space is limited along St Alkmund's Close, parking here is acceptable under those circumstances. I ask that other parents are sensitive to older family members with limited mobility or those with disabled badges who need to park closer to school. I do however request that in these circumstances, parents/carers ensure they are not blocking driveways, park away from junctions (at least 5-10 metres away) and avoid reversing out of junctions where visibility of children crossing is reduced.

If you are in receipt of a disabled badge

- please ensure it is clearly displayed on the dashboard.
- You may park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours if it is safe to do so but **not within 15 metres of a junction** or where there are restrictions on loading or unloading – indicated by yellow kerb dashes and/or signs on plates.
- You must not park on school 'keep clear' markings.
- You must not park on a pavement, unless signs permit it.

Information taken from 'Rights and Responsibilities of Blue Badge holders

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/rights-and-responsibilities-blue-badge-holders#toc-7>

Safe Parking Spaces available locally

Parents can park in the following places locally and walk the remaining distance to school.

- The Methodist Church at the bottom of King Street – the only time this will not be permitted is if there is a funeral taking place and a sign will be displayed.

- The Viceroy Restaurant car park – available free of charge until 4pm each day for village parking.

Future initiatives coming soon

- Parent/Carer parking pledge
- Car Free Vicarage Lane Day (not including local residents)
- Clean Air Day
- Road Safety Workshops for pupils
- Scooter Skills workshops and safety sessions

Final Reminders

There are a small number of families who could still park away and walk to school. If you can support us by keeping the approach to school safe, I would be very grateful.

Try to build an extra 10 minutes into your morning routine to give you time to park away and walk the remaining short distance to school.

Please **DO NOT** drive by the infant/junior gate to drop off. *I have observed two parents driving along Vicarage Lane, pausing at the Infant gate to let children get out and enter school whilst the parents sit in the car with the engine running.*

For those who need to, or insist on driving to park on Vicarage Lane, St Alkmunds Close or Castle Hill

- Ensure pavements, driveways and pedestrian access points are kept clear.
- Park at least 10 metres away from a junction. *The Highway Code advises drivers not to stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. This allows motorists emerging from, or turning into, the junction a clear view of the road they are joining, enabling them to see hazards such as pedestrians or cyclists.*
- Keep the School Keep Clear marking (zig zags) clear.
- Avoid driving down/up Vicarage Lane past the infant gate.
- Ensure emergency vehicles would be able to get past if needed.
- Adhere to local parking restrictions.
- Turn off your engine when parked – engines left idling contribute to air pollution.
- Behave in a manner than is respectful towards others – including pedestrians and residents.
- Drivers committing offences place themselves at risk of being prosecuted/ issued with tickets by the police.

When an issue such as this impacts on children’s health, safety, and wellbeing it can become an emotive issue. I have been made aware of some parents, with the best of intentions, taking matters into their own hands and challenging other parents/carers when they see, or perceive parking to be inconsiderate or contravening requests made above. I do not have the power to enforce any of the above requests, and nor do you as parents/carers. All I can do is politely encourage. I do need your support and ask you to politely encourage too.

The children in school are very familiar with the bible verse found in the Gospel of Matthew. It is the Golden Rule that is lived out in our school.

“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”.
Matthew (7:12)

In anticipation of your full support with the issues raised.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs E H Britten
Headteacher