Together rain or shine

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SAFE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL – WE NEED YOUR HELP

Dear Parents and Carers,

We need to ensure that **everyone can get into school safely**. Our school is busy. We have 460 children and over 80 staff needing to get to school daily – that's not including Rialize and school visitors. Plus with work progressing on The Haven, we have large vehicles needing to get onto and off our site.

I am sure that every one of you wants to know your child is safe coming to and from school, but that relies on all of us being considerate and thinking of safety at **ALL TIMES**. **Avoiding being late for work or an appointment will mean nothing if there is a traffic accident or if a child is injured**. One of our pupils tragically died in 2017 from injuries sustained in a road traffic accident locally. This event devastated our school community and is one we never want repeated.

It is more important than ever that we all follow our School Travel Rules, but we regularly see Parents and Carers not following them. The impact is:

- The bus getting stuck outside the school due to double-parking – an **emergency vehicle would not reach the school quickly** if needed by a child. We have several children with health conditions which could result in an ambulance being urgently needed.
- Cars being driven into the car park when they shouldn't be, putting the **safety of pupils at risk**.
- **Complaints from neighbours**, with one threatening to call the police.
- **Parents upset** about parking and their children's safety – please see the comments below.
- **Staff time being wasted** in trying to sort out avoidable parking problems.

Please help us by following the School Travel Rules (see below). I'll be in touch soon with information about our Travel Group and plans to encourage and support families to travel safely and sustainably. But in the meantime, do get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Andrea Bettridge, Headteacher

OUR SCHOOL TRAVEL RULES

PLEASE DO:

Walk to school whenever possible.

Park and stride – park a few minutes away from school and walk, scoot or cycle the last part.

Follow the one-way system – at drop-off and pick-up times. Please drive clockwise to school. Go up Haynes Mead and down Bridle Way. This is marked on the Travel Map.

Drive slowly – **20 is plenty** around school and the school driveway is 5 mph.

Consider using the KS2 drop off zone

AND PLEASE DON'T:

Be a Road Monster – the children say it best – PLEASE do watch the Road Monster video.

Park on the yellow zigzags or double yellow lines – they are there for a reason. Stopping for even the shortest time isn't allowed. The police can fine you for parking here.

Park on both sides of the road – we need to leave plenty of space for emergency vehicles and buses so please only park on one side. On Bridle Way, please only park on the left as you go down the hill.

Park on bends – especially the corner of Haynes Mead and Bridle Way. The visibility on that corner is really poor. Parking on the corner restricts visibility for other drivers and is breaking the Highway Code.

Park on the pavement or grass verges – this can stop pushchairs and wheelchairs (sometimes even pedestrians) getting past and damages grass verges maintained by our neighbours.

Block or cover residents' driveways – if your car doesn't fit in the space, please do not park there.

Drive into the school car park between 07:45 and 16:30 – (unless you have a permit and school have given permission for you to enter the car park).

Parent Forum Feedback November 2024 – Comments from parents

"I would like to raise a point about parking around the school. I know the school makes an effort to communicate the guidelines on travel to parents but it feels like the issues on double-parking, not using the one-way system and driving too fast down the hill are pretty bad again. I'm concerned about children's safety when crossing the road, but also walking on the pavement with cars sometimes up on the kerb and across the footpath or parked right on the corner of roads like Long View. The message about not coming into the school car park in peak hours is ignored even though a reminder was included in a recent bulletin."

"Parking / driving at drop off and pick up - We're living in one of the roads off Bridle Way and the situation has not improved despite years of comms and pleas to parents. High speeds going down Bridle Way, endless double parking and parking directly on the turn into our road, which makes it difficult / impossible to safely cross the road on foot and to safely turn from our road into bridle way in a car. This is even worse now in the dark."

"Bridle Way Road- we live very close to the school and we only have to cross Bridle Way to get to the school. However, as a resident in this area I don't find it safe for kids. With lots of cars parked next to each other it is hard to check what's coming down without putting half your body out. Unfortunately, some parents speed down the hill very fast which I find really concerning. Is it possible to request a speed limit change? Is it possible for the school to lead this request to the council?"