



Haywards Heath Police Station
Bolnore Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 4BA

24th May 2019

Dear Parent or Carer,

Traffic issues outside Windmills Junior School

I have been made aware of traffic issues during school drop-off and pick-up times, having witnessed for myself some of the incidents that take place outside the school, on Dale Avenue, during these times. I am writing to offer practical advice from a road safety point of view, which you may wish to pass on to parents.

The issues I personally have witnessed are:

1. Parking in the drive way
2. Reversing in to the drive way
3. Turning vehicles in the drive way
4. Parking on the zig zag lines
5. Parents parking on both sides of the road
6. Inconsiderate parking over drive ways and on grass verges
7. Speeding
8. Parents stopping vehicles in the middle of the road and allowing children to exit vehicle in the middle of busy traffic

I would like to offer you solutions to these problems and suggest the initial course of action would be to issue written advice to parents.

1. Parking in the drive way

There are frequently vehicles present on the drive way during these busy times when children are entering and exiting the school. In my opinion it would be better to never allow vehicles to park there, but I understand the challenges with the amount of room that can be allocated to the carpark on the school site. I would suggest therefore that parking is limited to contractors/trades men and official visitors to the school such as Governors or Inspectors and that these visitors be asked to remain considerate to the volume of pedestrians that use this area during drop off/pick up time and not move the cars or leave the premises during these short periods.

1. Reversing in to the drive way
2. Turning vehicles in the drive way

Considering the volume of pedestrians that use this area, this should never be allowed as it is very dangerous.

There is a high risk of injury during these busy times and therefore parents and motorists should not be performing either of these manoeuvres.



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3. Parking on the zig zag lines

The penalty for this is three points on the driver's licence and a fine of £60. As Sussex Police is committed to road safety and seeks (where appropriate) to educate rather than prosecute. In some circumstances drivers may be eligible to attend a diversion course depending on any existing penalty points.

4. Parents parking on both sides of the road and
5. inconsiderate parking over drive ways and grass verges

Local residents are greatly affected by the way parents park their cars. Traffic is heavier during these times as people commute to work and use Dale Avenue in order to do so. Also I notice the close proximity that your school is to Downlands and parents frequently end up queuing as a result of the Lolly Pop lady outside Windmills and vice versa, because of the busses dropping the pupils to Downlands.

It would be very difficult to restrict traffic during these times and would require the participation of WSCC which I believe has already been explored. I understand that they are considering double yellow lines down one side of Dale Avenue to prevent vehicles from parking on both sides. In the meantime, I suggest highlighting the dangers to parents and the affects that parking on both sides has for passing vehicles, especially larger vehicles such as busses. Also, I am sure Windmills would prefer that parents are considerate to residents around the school and do not block their driveways, keeping a good relationship with local residents. Local residents are entitled to ring WSCC who will remove the vehicle if the owner cannot be traced. This is a long term solution for when a vehicle is left for prolonged periods so realistically, asking people who drop the children off to be more considerate would be the most appropriate action. I notice that the grass verge on Highlands Close has been damaged by vehicles passing each other and this too should be discouraged as the verges are usually owned by WSCC.

If a vehicle is causing an obstruction or you think it is dangers, the police can take enforcement action. This should be reported on the non-emergency number 102 or via email. You can ask the local council to place a Traffic Regulation Order on the verge by submitting an application. The grass verge in to Highlands Close is in a particularly poor condition due to the way motorists have used it to pass each other during drop off/pick up times.

6. Speeding

Where the Police become aware of speeding drivers in proximity to schools we will consider taking proactive measures (such as speed checks) to enforce the limits.

7. Parents stopping in the middle of the road to allow their children out to cross over onto the pavement.

Allowing a child to decamp from a vehicle in the middle of the road into oncoming traffic is one of the most dangerous things I have seen parents do. This should never be an option as it is, in my opinion, too dangerous.

Ultimately, parents/carers should be encouraged to park legally nearby and walk their children to the school. It would greatly reduce the volume of traffic and the likelihood of an accident or serious incident.



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Finally, I hope you have taken the time to read this information and will consider following these suggestions. These simple considerations could make a massive difference for the children and their safety. Don't forget that if you wish to report an emergency use 999 and a non-emergency 101.

If you have any questions or suggestions please email the school and they will pass on your remarks to me,

Many thanks and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kate Bailey'.

Kate Bailey
Police Constable DB015

A message from Sussex Police