



17.06.19

### St Mary's Church Car Park

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I have held a meeting with representatives of St Mary's Church PCC. They came to me with very real concerns over our parents' use of the church car park. This has again highlighted a worry we share with you regularly, namely that the church car park is not being used in a safe or orderly way.

Both the school and the PCC share the view that if parents do not use the car park more courteously and responsibly then there is going to be a very serious incident, perhaps involving harm to a child. It appears that the critical time is at school pick up time when the car park becomes totally blocked up with cars parking all over the space with no thought for other users.

I should remind you that the Church car park is offered to us in school as a favour and that we are fortunate to be able to use the facility. It is not right that people visiting the church or the church office are unable to get in and out of the car park and are blocked in or unable to get into the car park in the first place.

In the spirit of good neighbours please might I ask that we all use the car park as we would any other public car park and adhere to parking only in the marked bays? If the car parking bays are full, then the car park is full and you should find an alternative parking place. Please do not park on the zig-zags, the grass verges or block people in by parking in a dangerous and haphazard way in the car park. Doing so increases tensions and stress and people make silly mistakes which could cost a life when behind the wheel.

We are proud to call ourselves a loving school and this means all members of the school community, including the adults, should treat each other with respect and courtesy.

A further issue appears to be the fact that some parents are sitting with the car idling rather than switching off the engine. Please respect our eco-school status and try to be mindful of the environmental impact of sitting in a car park with your engine switched on.

If we had the resources and manpower, we would police the car park and control the entry and exit of vehicles but this really should not be necessary.

We are so lucky that Nigel at the Three Tuns allows us to use his car park and the church are also accommodating to us. If we do not use these favours respectfully we could be in danger of having them withdrawn from us to use.

If possible, please consider parking further away from school and walking a bit with your little one, sharing a lift or, better still, leave the car at home and walk if you can.

I would also be really glad to hear from any parent volunteers who may be willing to operate a "walking bus" perhaps from the shops so that we might reduce some traffic this way.



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I understand that parents may need to get children to clubs etc. after school but we must, nevertheless be considerate and put safety before getting somewhere on time. If we park respectfully, everyone can get away more easily and the risk of an accident would be reduced significantly.

I have taken the decision that if everyone chooses to ignore this request for co-operation and continues to put our children at risk then I will have no option but to voluntarily withdraw our use of the car park to show the church community that I am serious about trying to improve this situation and the car park will be closed to parents.

I very much hope that we do not reach this situation and that we can use the car park as it should be used.

Thanks so much for your attention to this matter and I really hope that you will help me to improve the situation for the good of our community and the environment.

Mr. Brown