



St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

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Only my best will do; Be kind to one another

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year I hope you had a great family time together I know the children enjoyed the Christmas break and are happy to be back. Was this the same for all my parents??

I just need to direct your attention to a number of issues for us all.

- 1) St Sebastian's are once again in the Top 10 in the Echo's Real School Guide 2019 according to the Echo's criteria (not national criteria). At the end of Key Stage 2 SATs Results for 2017/2018 (published December 2018) we were equal 59th (aggregate score) out of the top 250 state primary schools as listed in The Sunday Times. We were exceptional according to National and Local League Tables.
- 2) I am sure many of you know that Miss Devine is due to leave shortly to begin her maternity leave, as the mum's know, the baby dictates the exact due date 90% of the time. We have been preparing for this and have put in place alternative provision to enable all our children in KS1 will be well cared for and to make the progress we all hope for them to this end. Miss Leneghan will assume responsibility of Year 2 as this is a SATs year which is nationally assessed and tested and she knows the children well. Miss Wade who we have interviewed will assume responsibilities in Year 1 where she has already been invited in to do some teaching days. There will be a handover period to ensure a smooth transition with little disruption. The children's reaction to these changes is, as Mrs Mulligan and I expected, great.

VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL WHO DRIVE TO OUR SCHOOL

Mrs Mulligan has been "alarmed" and "shocked" by statements made to us about the DANGERS our children and families face coming to school by not only inconsiderate drivers who "endanger" our children's lives by:

- 1) Parking "illegally" on double yellow lines, school zigzag lines.
- 2) Speeding- it is a 20mph road.
- 3) Dropping children off in the middle of the road.
- 4) Reversing.
- 5) Three point turns, this is not a "driving test" site. It is a road with heavy traffic at CERTAIN TIMES which makes it DANGEROUS for all who use it. Car users, children, parents and other users of this road.
- 6) Parking on corners.



I know there are parking spaces AWAY from school AND YES it can be a "little walk" of ALL of 2 minutes away but it is for the SAFETY of yours and other children. THIS WE MUST INSIST ON. Staff of the school and the crossing patrol have indicated that they fear there will be an ACCIDENT and even a FATAL ACCIDENT. I do not want a family or school or our community to have to deal with this type of incident that a local primary school boy's family and school are still trying to deal with.

This isn't about getting parking patrols or police at our school site every day, no school can have this. We do have a "crossing lady" more than most who does exchange words about "inconsiderate" parking but feels she is wasting her breath. I go out at different times on both sites and people (not necessarily parents) who are dropping off TRY TO IGNORE me or most parents on seeing me do not park incorrectly if they may have been considering to do so. This statement is not directly at all of our drivers to school, the majority of you ARE FANTASTIC thank you for keeping "our children" safe.

So what will happen now I have a "duty of care" to keep your children safe in school BUT as you know I don't consider this begins and stops at the school gate. So like Cyber Bullying and inappropriate use of Social Media which "harms" our children and we act on in fact we have asked parents to take children out of our school. I intend to do the same when I consider drivers who endanger the health and well-being of my parents and children.

- 1) I will instruct parents to move vehicles if incorrectly parked.
- 2) I will take PICTURES of cars and vehicle registrations and share with POLICE.
- 3) I will go to court if asked as a witness against those who endanger our children
- 4) I will for repeated offences, refusals etc as the family to take their children out of our school.

I do believe you as parents would go to extra ordinary lengths to "protect" your child.

PLEASE LET'S MAKE OUR ROADS SAFE

MOBILE PHONES ON SCHOOL SITE: I have dealt with a complaint today concerning a mobile phone. So I will try to explain the way we have been instructed to deal with it. The rule is that Mobile Phones are NOT to be USED on the school sites, this includes The Field of Dreams Site WHILE children are on site which in our school is until 6pm. A parent had taken the mobile phone out of a pocket or it could have been a bag. A member of staff asked the parent to put it away as not allowed. THIS UPSET THE PARENT as it was said "I was not using it" I did ask "How does the member of staff know that?" So in the interest of clarity- Mobile Phones should NOT be out in your hand, around neck etc. The signs we have around the site is a picture of a mobile with an X through it. This means that mobiles are NOT allowed and if seen out you will be asked to put it away immediately. AGAIN this is for your child's safety. For your information there are certain members of the Senior Leadership Team who have SCHOOL mobile phones including myself who on occasions have to use these on site for school's health and safety.

Finally about our Federated School of St Cuthbert's. They have had fantastic news this week that the DfE have approved the release of 4.42 million pounds to build the brand new school in the coming 18 months. The Governors are delighted that 7 years hard work will realise a dream.

Dennis Hardiman M.B.E Executive Head Teacher