

Dear Parents

In partnership with Heatherside Infants, I am writing to remind parents about the absolute importance of safety in and around our school site. As always, we are working hard to minimise the risk of a child being injured and we need your complete support in this. With almost a thousand pedestrians walking in and out of the Heatherside campus at the start and end of the day; safety must come before time or convenience.

Driving onto site



Driving on site is not permitted for school drop off and pick up unless the driver is disabled and has a Blue Badge. (As Accessible Parking is limited, Blue Badge holders are asked to ensure that the badge is clearly displayed.) All other vehicles must find alternative, safe, places to park off the school site.

We are aware that some contractors and delivery drivers do not always drive onto our site with the level of care that we expect. However we take immediate and proactive steps to follow up any incidences of dangerous or inconsiderate driving from these external companies and appreciate it when parents inform us of this.

Parking in the local area



We fully appreciate that parking is very limited but we would ask that all parents/grandparents etc park with due care and consideration to local residents. As there is building work on Carthona Drive, it is even more important that cars are not parked on the verges or on double yellow lines. (Delivery lorries are sometimes permitted to unload from double yellow lines but a private car would be deemed as being parked/stopped illegally.) Both Mrs Lynch and I met recently with Mr Jeffery of Trinity Construction and know that his company have stringent health and safety rules. Mr Jeffery is very aware of how busy the junction is and we were very reassured by the high priority he places on the children's safety.

Parents may not be aware that some parking is now available at the Canal Bridge Car Park for 35p per stay. We are also aware that a number of parents work together to 'share their drive space' so that cars can be parked off the roads.



Parking during the day



We greatly value the support of parents/grandparents who come into school to help but unfortunately our car park is not big enough to allow Parent Helpers to park on site. Between the two schools there are over 80 members of staff and I am sure you'll agree that it is essential that they are able to find a space when they arrive to work with your children.



Walking, part walking or scootering to school

As part of our commitment to Healthy Schools, we would encourage all families to walk or part walk to school. I know that the children enjoy scootering and we have installed additional scooter parking to help parents out with this. However, we do ask that children dismount from scooters on busy pathways and on the playground so that the children are safe and any accidents to pedestrians also minimised.

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents who consistently support our site safety rules and appreciate that this letter does not apply to everyone. I know that we are constantly sending reminders out to parents about parking and cars on site but I will never apologise for doing all I can to keep the children safe when they are coming to and from school. By working together we can ensure that the risk of an accident remains as low as it can possibly be.

Mrs Dunn