



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



16th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I am unfortunately having to write to you all about the dangerous and inconsiderate parking around school.

I know pick up and drop off times are difficult and very busy, however a small minority of parents from school are still parking without any thought for our local residents. This week alone I have taken three calls and two emails (it is only Tuesday) from residents very unhappy about cars being parked across their drives, on the yellow line and unbelievably parents parking their cars either side of Charters Avenue so an emergency vehicle could not enter the road. This is obviously both dangerous and illegal; parking across residents' driveways is an offence which could also result in a Penalty Charge Notice should they report you.

Residents also witness cars parked on the grass verges. This costs the council thousands of pounds each year in repairing damage to the verges. These parked cars are also putting our children in danger as they have to step off the footway onto the road. This parking can pose a safety risk to pupils and parents that do walk and cycle to school, as well as to other road users. In addition, the concerns over unsafe parking can be a major barrier to increasing levels of walking and cycling to school.

Now the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and the weather is getting warmer to ease this problem I would also encourage parents and pupils to use more sustainable modes of travel to get to school where this is possible. I do understand that parents or carers will sometimes need to drive their children to school, however I would urge where possible for parents/carers to park **safely** away from the school and then walk in.

Thank you in advance for your support in this important matter and let's hope together we can ensure the safety of all our children and be more mindful and considerate to our local residents.

Yours sincerely

S Varricchione

Headteacher