



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...

...to be the best 'me' I can be.

18th January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians,

I am unfortunately having to write to you about the dangerous and inconsiderate parking around school further to the messages sent previously. I understand pick up and drop off times are difficult and very busy due to large amounts of children on site 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 from residents very unhappy about cars being parked across their drives, on the double yellow line, on the zigzag lines and unbelievably parents parking their cars on the pavement. One parent sent in a picture of an abandoned car in the middle of the road also. This is obviously both dangerous and illegal.

Further to this, last night I was informed that an ambulance (with lights/sirens) could not access a resident's home due to cars waiting in Birches Avenue and the parking of parents. It is in these situations that the lack of consideration upsets me, how would you feel if it was your loved one requiring emergency care and not have the access due to someone's actions? I know how we all would feel, so I am asking you to please, please be considerate.

Furthermore, this parking can pose a safety risk to pupils and parents that do walk, scoot 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.

The Highway Code rule 238 states

You **MUST NOT** wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates (or zone entry signs if in a Controlled Parking Zone) – see [‘Traffic signs’](#) and [‘Road markings’](#). Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs. You **MUST NOT** wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings (see [‘Road markings’](#)) when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping. **Law RTRA sects 5 & 8**

Now that the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and the weather is getting warmer (hopefully!) to ease this problem I would like to 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/guardians to park away from the school and then walk in.

Please could you think of the safety of ALL our children and refrain from parking across resident's driveways as this is an offence, which could also result in a Penalty Charge Notice.

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

Please do contact me if you would like to discuss this further, I would be willing and interested to hear your views.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher