

19th September 2023

Dear Saxon Way Families,

I am writing to inform you of many concerns which have been raised by parents and residents about parking outside the school, particularly on Church Path. On several occasions, within newsletters, you have been reminded to be considerate of where you park. To improve the safety previously, the Council has painted zig zag lines in specific areas outside the school however it seems that there are still issues so I ask that you adhere to the following in relation to Church Path:

- If you choose to park on Church Path, please ensure that the road is clear for you to drive down before doing so. This may involve you waiting at the top of the road to give way to other cars. This will stop the road from being congested and allow for cars to exit Church Path safely.
- Please park considerately on the right-hand side of the road and not fully over the pavement. This causes an obstruction and makes it very difficult for pedestrians, particularly the elderly and people with young children and pushchairs, to walk past safely.
- Please do not park in the space at the bottom of Church Path. This makes it difficult for parents to walk past safely and creates congestion near the gates. (The Zig-Zags are there to provide a clear and safe space for children)

I take the safety of all our families and children very seriously. Therefore, we have been in contact with Medway Council and the Police over reoccurring parking issues. We have been advised that we can report any vehicles who are parking dangerously or obstructing pathways. I appreciate that it can be very difficult to park near the school, but parking in this manner is putting your children at risk. Please allow yourself extra time to park away from the school and walk round with your child. There are many roads off of Ingram Road where parking is safely available.

At times our Site Manager, Mr Neil, will be visible at drop off and pick up times to try to remind and advise parents of safer places to park. Please also be aware that all school staff should be spoken to in a respectful manner and any aggressive or confrontational behaviour will not be tolerated.

We realise that there are some parents who have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however, many are driving short distances where walking is a real option. Walking can improve overall levels of fitness in children and adults and is a cheap low impact way to exercise. This can have a positive impact both mentally and physically. Let's all take some personal responsibility and work together to ensure our school area is a safe place.

In conclusion, I do appreciate that most of the parents walk or drive responsibly to school. Thank you for your good example and being an exemplary role model to the children.

Yours sincerely,



SAXON WAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Path, Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1SJ

T. 01634 336720 office@saxonway-gst.org www.saxonway-gst.org



Jen Vidler-Ironmonger
Head of School



A member of the Griffin Schools Trust

Executive Head Janey Denton

Head of School Mrs Jen Vidler-Ironmonger