



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

I am writing once again on the issue of keeping our children safe on their journey to and from school. I recognise that the vast majority of Cardinal Newman parents do try their best to make responsible choices around travel to school and the last thing I want is for parking to become a battle between school and the parent body. Parking choices are the responsibility of the individual and not the school.

The school's responsibility lies in offering sustainable choices for parents around travel to school. As you know, we regularly publicise options for travel to school. These include:

- Where possible, walk, scoot or cycle from home
- Consider park and stride, where parking is further away from school and children walk /scoot / cycle a certain distance to school
- Free parking permits for Hersham Station car park – then a short walk
- Free parking at Coronation Recreation Ground – then a short walk through the park
- Responsible parking in permitted areas around the side streets of the school, taking care not to block residents driveways or garages
- In special circumstances you may get authorisation to park at school (e.g. long term illness / child's broken leg etc) - please email the office about this.

However, you may be aware that there are some parents who continue to park down Arch Road, where there was another near-miss incident with a child on the pavement during this week. There are also some parents who park inconsiderately on the nearby roads including Molesey Road and there have been numerous complaints this week about parents being very rude to residents when challenged about their anti-social parking.

I cannot know how polite the residents are to our parents, but this is not the issue – as a Catholic school in the heart of our community, we have a responsibility to make the right choices about travel to school and to turn the other cheek if others are rude to us. It reflects very badly on our parent body and on the school as a whole when a few individuals impact on our reputation.

In response to these numerous complaints, I have been in touch with Elmbridge Council and asked them to support the school to solve the problem of parking. Councillors will be monitoring the parking around the school and looking at solutions together with us. I believe traffic enforcement officers are already working in this area and they have said they will step up their patrols of the roads around our school at pick up and drop off times. I am also sharing with you (in a separate pdf) the advice from the police on the issue of anti-social parking – residents assure me that they plan to pursue this avenue where other measures have failed.

I am sorry to keep having to write about parking. I am sure many of us share the frustration of the local residents who repeatedly ask us to help parents to make the right choices about travel to school. I would ask all parents to ensure that they are making the best possible travel arrangements for their situation, giving due regard to the needs of others. This will help us to keep the children as safe as possible while they travel to school.

Thank you so much for your support at this time.

Catherine Burnham
Headteacher