

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

24 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I need to apologise for sending this letter out to all parents, as this mainly concerns those of you who pick your children up by car from the Oaklands drive or who drop off in the morning. As I am sure you appreciate accurately identifying parents is challenging.

This is now the third occasion this academic year that I have written about road safety on site. I wrote to all parents on [9th September 2022](#) and again on [10th February](#). These letters can be found on our website.

Over the course of this week we have been monitoring the number of parents entering the school site before the gates shut. Today, Friday 24th February was not untypical, with parents parking in the staff car park, in the bays by the Sixth Form or in the student car park. In addition, there were a further 25 cars with waiting parents parked down the school drive. Parents are regularly parking in the 'No Parking' zone by the roundabout or even on the roundabout itself. This week we have had two near misses.

As I am sure you appreciate moving 1,300 students off site along a road with moving buses and traffic comes as a risk. To mitigate against this risk, we respectfully ask that parents do not enter the site until 3.50pm, once the buses have gone and most of the foot traffic has left site. In addition, students must not cross the main driveway.

I am aware that a number of parents sensibly park safely 5 or 10 minutes' walk away from the school site, in roughly the same place each day and students walk to the car. If you are picking your children up this is the most sensible and time efficient solution.

The second issue relates to the morning drop off. The speed limit on site is 5 miles per hour and needs to be observed, this is just quicker than walking pace. Students need to be dropped on the left hand side by the bus stops. A number of parents have taken to driving as close to the White House as possible, or parking in disabled bays without genuine reason.

Over the half term holiday, we had the road signs marked out and replaced so there is no uncertainty in relation to how the 'rules of the road' apply on site.

My Governors are so concerned about the behaviour of some drivers, that the idea of taking the lead from other schools, where an on site pickup has been banned is now being considered. Banning parents is something I want to avoid.

If you do not personally pick up or drop off by car but ask friends or relatives to do this. Please can you ensure this important message is shared.

I apologise that this letter may be a little stern in its tone, but in the final analysis the health and safety of students and staff has to be the paramount consideration.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher