

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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27 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

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

Over recent weeks the number of parents entering the school site has increased significantly, as has poor and illegal parking outside school. The two images below exemplify the situation. This week the problem outside school has been compounded by the fibre-cabling work which has moved the Number 7 south bound bus stop.

Last year it was necessary to write to parents on three occasions about road safety and appropriate use of the school site, this is the second occasion this year. Historic information related to road safety and access to the site can be found on the school website as specific letters or within the Oaklands News.



Today, 27th November, was not untypical, with parents parking in the staff car park, in the bays by the Sixth Form, in the student car park or other designated non-parking areas. 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. There is now a sign, on the right hand side of the drive confirming this position.



A number of cars were parked dangerously and illegally outside the school causing congestion. Rule 243 of the highway code states that it is illegal to park near a school entrance, or near a bus stop. We have notified the police and have asked that they issue penalty notices to illegally parked vehicles.

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. There are a number of parents that have blue badges for their child; if your child is in receipt of one of these please make sure that it is visibly on display in the front of your car and the site staff will let you in.

The final matter 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 or visitor bays without genuine reason.

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 your children and our staff that 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

cc Hampshire County Council, Highways
Havant Brough Council
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary