

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Ecclesall Primary School children,

We are writing to you regarding the ongoing parking issues outside of Ecclesall Primary School and other local schools. Ecclesall Primary School Governors had a detailed discussion at our Full Governing body meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 regarding these issues and linked to recent communication from various parents and carers to school.

At Ecclesall Primary School, we take the safety of our children very seriously. Whilst road safety is the responsibility of the council, we have continued to work with the Modeshift Stars Active Travel team, parking enforcement officers, local councillor, Ben Miskell, local MP, Olivia Blake, other local schools and the council to try to improve the safety of the roads in the local area. Next week, Karen Vickers, who is the Senior Road Safety officer for Road Safety in the Strategic Transport, Sustainability and Infrastructure department at the Local Authority, is visiting our school to do assemblies on **"Be Bright, Be Seen"**.

We regularly remind parents and carers of the importance of driving and parking considerately and encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scooter to school wherever possible. We have achieved GOLD Modeshift Stars Active Travel Award this July 2023 and the Platinum Award in 2022. Modeshift Active Travel aims to secure increased levels of safe, active and sustainable travel in schools. **There is no excuse for parking on double yellow lines, double parking (where it then becomes very difficult to access), blocking residents' driveways, or parking at the end of a road where it becomes very unsafe for drivers or pedestrians to cross a road safely.** We are very aware that there are incidents of antisocial parking by a small minority of people dropping off or collecting children from Ecclesall Primary School. This causes inconvenience but more seriously, places others in danger. PLEASE think before you park ensuring all our children's safety at all times.

Ecclesall Primary School ECO team are also very proud that Eco Schools.org have renewed our Green Flag status again but with distinction this July 2023 too. We are continuing to work on **Transport** as one of our Green Flag priorities with our active ECO team consisting of 21 pupils. The other two priorities are our **School Grounds** and **Bio-diversity**. Please read our monthly EPS Updates and our social media on Ecclesall Facebook or Instagram for more initiatives each term: <https://sway.office.com/5u5ouqqxyXleERI?ref=Link&loc=mysways>

Our Chair of Governors, Kevin Corke met with Olivia Blake, MP in August and then she visited school in September 2023 to celebrate our awards and to work together to consider more ways of educating our families and the local community to increase safer, sustainable active travel in the future. Please see our Active Travel/Eco section on our school website: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/active-travel/>

We have also been made aware that there are a small minority of our parents/ carers who are being very vocal, shouting abuse and telling others how to park and upsetting our families (in front of their children). Many parents and carers have been in touch with school to say how upset they are when their choice of car or decision to drive to school is criticised despite parking their car

legally. We have had some parents and children in tears as they cannot believe that some people are angry at their car size. We do not condone such behaviour, which does not reflect the values we aspire to for our pupils.

The Local Authority Parking Enforcement Officers are employed to deal with antisocial parking and decide who has parked illegally. If unsafe parking cannot be enforced by the Parking Enforcement Officers, then it is the responsibility of the Police. **School staff do not have the authority to police outside the school grounds** and Governors feel strongly that we are responsible for our children inside our school grounds. The Senior Leadership team and our Building supervisor, Mr Moffatt, are a visual presence before and after school ensuring that all children have been picked up by their adult and any lost children feel safe with a school staff member until their adult has been found.

**Reminder:** For the safety of our children and families, our car park is for staff only at all times with the exception of disabled access and official visitors before, during and after school. This includes parents and carers taking or collecting from Kids club and other school clubs.

It is closed to ALL vehicles (apart from restricted access) between the following times: 8.30-9.00am & 3.00-3.30pm. Please use the walkway from High Storrs drive at all times.

Please see our Parent Guide sent out in September for more information:

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Ecclesall-Primary-School-Parent-Guide-September-2023.pdf>

Please follow our Ecclesall school values: **Positivity, Kindness and Respect.**

Kind regards

Emma Hardy  
Head Teacher  
Ecclesall Primary School

Kevin Corke  
Chair of Governors  
Ecclesall Primary School