

## **Re: Road and community safety**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

As a result of the pandemic, a number of parents and carers have taken the decision to drive their children to school. Once again, I would ask that if possible, children walk or cycle to school. We have storage for bicycles and scooters (non-electric) on site.

If this is not possible and you have no choice but to drive, please do not park and leave your engines running. This deteriorates the air quality around the school just as children and staff are making their way in.

I am also asking that you do not complete three-point turns in the middle of Forest Road when pupils are making their way into school. This is particularly dangerous as pupils are crossing the road and trying to make their way safely into one of our three entrance points. Over 80% of our pupils do walk to school, meaning that over 700 young people are making their way in between 8:40 and 9:00am.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

I also need to inform you of an update from the Metropolitan Police.

There have been a small number of knife-enabled crime incidents involving robberies and assaults in the vicinity of some local schools and colleges. In response, some focused police patrols will be in place around the affected locations over the next two weeks. These officers are there to make the areas safer for the whole community, and to deter and detect offenders involved in knife crime.

### **Key messages:**

- **Keep to busy streets and roads where there may be CCTV and more people around; avoid quiet or secluded areas especially as short cuts.**
- **If you are going to any area you do not know, plan in advance how to get there; always tell someone where you are going.**
- **Try not to have your phone and other valuables on view – this may attract unwanted attention.**
- **Make sure your phone is registered to you and consider installing a tracker app; make sure you know the IMEI number in case it is stolen.**
- **Using headphones reduces your awareness of what is happening around you and makes you more vulnerable.**
- **If someone threatens you with a knife for your phone, airpods or anything else – do not risk your life – property can be replaced but you cannot.**

We are handling these messages from the police sensitively as a school community. Please also speak with your child about the advice given above.

Wishing you a good weekend,

Best wishes,

J McQuaid

**Head Teacher**