

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

### **Parent Meeting to address the issue of parking outside school and the daily threat to the safety of children and pedestrians using Clarendon and Booth Roads.**

- The meeting opened at 6:00pm with Mrs Gaffney and Mrs Duffy welcoming the parents and Police officers who attended.
- It was agreed that the situation is caused by the same few offenders who do not follow the rules with regard to safety in the immediate vicinity of school. Everyone was in agreement that the situation is extremely dangerous and that something must be done.
- It was also agreed that despite there only being few offenders, the situation was none the less grave and was causing distress to some of the neighbours' and school staff.

It was agreed that the school and many parents had tried on many occasions to rectify this situation but some parents refuse to arrive sufficiently early so as to park away from school and walk the remainder of the way, thus leaving fewer cars near to the school and reducing the risk to children and parents.

It was agreed that these parents were setting a bad example to their children who were aware that the behaviour of their parents was challenging the authority of their teachers and was in direct conflict to school standards and expectations, thus placing their children in a very difficult position.

#### **Suggestions from neighbours and parents included:**

Staff patrolling in high visibility jackets, adults and children being used as human bollards, the staff car park being opened for use as a turning circle, the Diocesan land being used for parents' access to school. Mrs Gaffney explained that staff would not be insured to patrol the streets and or traffic and the traffic PCSOs were in full agreement. Everyone agreed that the situation was so dangerous that children and adults being used as human bollards was simply not an option. Mrs Gaffney explained the adjacent land did not belong to the school and assumptions that it could be used did not take the bigger picture into consideration.

#### **Those considered to be feasible were:**

1. A Walking Bus from two or three general directions
2. Concrete bollards, perhaps in school colours installed on the junction of Booth and Clarendon Roads. It was felt that these would be aesthetically pleasing to neighbours whilst assisting the safety of the children. These would need to be placed on the corners and along Booth Road where the school entrance is.
3. Parking cones can be used in the same manner as "A" boards and would assist, even on a temporary basis in keeping the pavements and driveways of our neighbours safe.
4. Add a section to the Parent Code of Conduct, whereby any incident of "dangerous and inconsiderate parking" will be considered a breach of the Parent Code of Conduct. This

will, as with other breaches, result in a warning letter and removal from the school site. Mrs Gaffney will take this to the Governing Body Meeting on Thursday 9th November.

Mrs Gaffney explained that we had been promised 2 large parking signs from the Council and a parent had agreed to fund an additional 2 signs.

Parents' main concern was what they should and could do when they witness offenders. The Traffic PCSOs said that photographic evidence should be sent to Mrs Gaffney who, in turn, would forward it to the Police.

The registration of these vehicles would be blanked out but the vehicles will be:

1. Placed on the school's Twitter feed
2. Be issued with a warning letter from the Police
3. If the same vehicle is found re-offending the vehicle can be removed from the owner for a period of 12 months under the Police Reform Act 2002

Parents reported that some parents are abusive when they comment on their dangerous and inconsiderate parking. Mrs Gaffney confirmed that both herself and Mrs Gleeson had received similar abuse. This is a public order offence. From now on, any parent who reacts in this manner will be reported to the Police.

## **Action**

- All parents are to be sent a copy of these minutes so they are aware of the severity of the situation, of what they can do and the action to be taken for offenders and re-offenders.
- Parent to forward image of bollards to Mrs Gaffney who will pursue the relevant people to see if this is possible.
- Mrs Gaffney to pursue the No Parking Signs.
- Police to send out a leaflet regarding Safe parking to be distributed by the school
- A week of action by the Civil Enforcement Officers warning parents of the consequences of their dangerous and inconsiderate parking.
- Images of offending vehicles will be sent to the Police and posted on the Twitter feed
- Relevant action will be taken by the Police under Section 59 and The Police Reform Act 2002
- Copies of these minutes are to be sent to The Police, Member of Parliament and Local Councillors

There will be a Meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 6:00pm at the school to review the situation and the impact of any of the action taken.