



5th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I am unfortunately having to write to you about incidents of dangerous and inconsiderate parking close to the school, which have recently resulted in a number of complaints from local residents and other road users.

A small number of parents or carers are dropping children off outside school without taking due care and attention for the safety of our children and other road users.

Parking or stopping on the roundabout in front of school, to drop off or collect a child is both dangerous and illegal. It puts children at immediate risk as they leave or enter a vehicle and causes traffic jams at the roundabout and in surrounding roads. I am therefore requesting that this conduct stops immediately. If needed, pupils should be dropped off at a safe place, further away from the school entrance, in adequate time to allow them to walk the rest of the way to school and arrive safely, by 8:35am.

In addition, pavements local to the school are being mounted by parked cars, which is blocking access for pedestrians and putting them at risk. This parking clearly also poses a safety risk to pupils that walk to school, as well as to other road users.

Parking across residents' driveways, restricting their access and that of emergency services is also not acceptable. It is disappointing that residents have reported that they have experienced unfavourable reactions when parents and carers have been asked to move vehicles. This is not representative of Swanshurst School's culture and values and undermines the relationship that we wish to build with our neighbours in the wider community.

Our police liaison officer has been made aware of the recent complaints and as a result, we are expecting an increased police presence outside school at drop off and collection times.

Thank you in advance for your support with this important issue. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff on duty if you ever have any concerns about student safety.

Yours sincerely,

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