

The Meadows School

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10th June 2021

Dear Families

Re: Transport

I am writing to you to share our thoughts regarding the transportation of your child. For you to fully understand our perspective, it would be useful to provide you with some background information: -

- Families of our older students may remember how transport was organised up to a couple of years ago. The vast majority of our students were brought to and from school on large mini buses provided by one operator – Accessible transport group ATG. We had a very small number of taxis and an even smaller number of parents transporting their own children. This model was the basis of the original design and capacity of the school's car park.
- In 2018, the Local Authority removed the contract from ATG and commissioned eight private companies. Compared to ATG these companies use significantly less mini buses and more black taxis, therefore the total number of vehicles has increased to the point that we now have to direct school staff to park their cars on the adjacent Temple car park.
- Before the COVID pandemic, eighteen families had chosen to access the Parent Transport Budget and transport their own children. Since our return to school in March, we now have forty-nine students transported in this way. Every morning and afternoon, we now have approximately ninety vehicles accessing the school site.

The school's Senior Leadership Team has identified that this quantity of vehicles is presenting an immediate health and safety risk to all users. We feel that it is not a question of 'if' an accident is going to occur, but 'when'!

The high number of parental concerns raised recently has strengthened our perception. Many of you have shared your worries with us regarding this issue and we thank you for your feedback.

Please see the school website for all GDPR and Privacy notice information.

Your child's safety has always been our absolute main priority and the current situation cannot continue, therefore we have decided to take the following actions with effect from Monday 14th June 2021:

- The vast majority of parents/carers that transport their children to and from school will be required to park on the Temple car park and walk their son/daughter along the pathway to the rear school entrance (1st gate on your left as you leave the temple grounds, through the service yard).
- The staff will be ready to receive your child at 8.50 am at the rear school entrance, and again at the end of the school day at 3.00 pm.
- To meet the individual needs of specific students, a small number of parents/carers have been given permission to park on the main car park. These parents will be notified individually.

The situation will be constantly reviewed however; we envisage that the above arrangement will remain in place for the rest of this academic year. Your feedback is appreciated.

Moving forward to the new academic year, we anticipate more changes taking place due to the expansion of the school. We will endeavour to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely



Rupe Virk
Headteacher

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