

Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School



Love and Justice for All

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PARENTS

We have received a number of complaints from local residents and parents regarding the parking and traffic situation outside our school during pick up and drop off times. These complaints have also coincided with a few near miss incidents which have occurred at peak times.

This notice aims to explain to local residents and parents the steps we are taking to alleviate the issues, the limitations of what we can enforce, and how you can help us to improve the situation for everyone's benefit and safety.

What we are doing

At Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School we take the safety of our children extremely seriously and pride ourselves on being good neighbours to the residents who live in the vicinity of the school. Here are some of the actions we have taken – and continue to take – in order to alleviate risk, and lessen inconvenience for residents:

- For years we have assigned the school Site Manager to stand at the junction of Arrowcroft and Hill Top Road in order to monitor the traffic situation, ensure children are crossing safely, and if necessary, intervene to prevent an incident.
- We have created a school Parking Charter which parents of our children are strongly encouraged to follow. This is a detailed document which appeals to our parents to act responsibly when dropping off and picking up their children.
- We encourage parents and children, where practicable, to walk or cycle to school. This is not just to promote safety, but also for the mental health benefits of exercise, and being environmentally conscious.
- Whenever an issue is reported to us, we address it directly (where possible) and send a message to all parents in our weekly newsletter.
- For more serious incidents or near misses, we send an urgent message to all parents using School Spider.
- We continue to liaise with Guilden Sutton Parish Council about the parking and traffic situation.
- We report traffic incidents to 101 and frequently seek advice from our local PCSO.
- We have requested permission to implement traffic calming measures, such as cones, which can be placed on junctions, from our local PCSO.

Our limitations

As these incidents take place on a public highway where there are no parking restrictions, there is a limit to what we can do from a legal perspective. We receive many complaints from residents and parents who would like the school to do more. However, while we share their frustrations, there is only so much we are able to do.

Guilden Sutton C. of E. Primary School, Arrowcroft Road, Guilden Sutton, Cheshire. CH3 7ES
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Headteacher: Mrs Theresa Rainford, B.Ed. National SENDCO Qual. NPQSL.



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Here are some examples of requests we receive and where these stray beyond the limits of what we are able to control:

Can you get Mr Whelan to tell parents to park/not park in certain locations?

Mr Whelan's job when standing outside is to ensure that children are safe when crossing the roads. He has no authority to move people or direct them where to park – in fact he has been advised against doing this by our PCSO. Despite this, Mr Whelan has, and will continue to, speak to parents who park in a way which blocks residents' driveways or cause an obstruction on the footpath so that pushchairs and/or wheelchair users cannot get past. Ultimately, however, the school cannot control where people park or how they drive.

Can you get parents who live in the village to walk to school?

Over 60% of our children come from outside of Guilden Sutton village. While we encourage walking or cycling where possible, we have no authority to restrict parents using vehicles to drop off/pick up their children based on their proximity to school.

Can you implement traffic control measures outside the school (double yellow lines, one-way systems)?

The school cannot implement traffic control measures on the public highway. We would in fact be in contravention of the law if we did this. We have requested this on multiple occasions but have been denied.

What you can do to help

As stated above, we have been in frequent contact with Guilden Sutton Parish Council, who themselves have been working extremely hard to remedy the situation. The Parish have been in touch with Cheshire West and Chester Highways and the feedback they have received is that there have been no reported incidents in the area and hence it is not considered a 'traffic hotspot'.

Here are some of the things you can do to support us in our efforts to make the public highway outside our school a safer zone:

- **Report near misses to 101** – if you witness a traffic incident or near miss, dial 101 immediately and report it. This will ensure that Cheshire Highways are aware of these incidents and therefore more inclined to offer us support in the future.
Contact your local PCSO – to ensure the severity of the situation gets through to the right people, we kindly ask that you help us by reporting your concerns to the local authority. This will back up our own claims that traffic calming measures are necessary.
Politely challenge poor driving/parking – while we do not have the authority to control where and how people drive or park, we will politely challenge or remind drivers when their driving is causing a hazard. However, we cannot be everywhere at once. If you see inappropriate driving or parking, please challenge it as we do. Just ensure this is done calmly and respectfully, always setting a good example to our children.

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