

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

DL13 2NU

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

16th March 2022

Re: Parking and Dropping off in staff car park

Could I please ask parents NOT to use the school staff car park to either drop off children or to turn around in.

We have had two near misses this week already where cars are trying to drive through the line of children and adults waiting at the school gate. We have also had a member of staff who needed to leave the site urgently, blocked in by a parent vehicle.

The staff car park is for staff parking only and no other vehicles (other than deliveries) should be accessing that area. I really don't want to have to start closing the car park gate to ensure the safety of our children and parents.

I appreciate that now that the staggered start times have been removed it is much busier, on a morning particularly but those of you who have had children in school prior to the Covid pandemic will remember that it was much worse when everyone had to come in for 9am and wait with their children on the yard. Parking was horrendous and dangerous and often involved police attending or neighbours complaining. Things are drastically improved with the current system and we are receiving a lot of positive feedback with parents appreciating the fact that their children can be dropped off at the gate and they can get off to work or get on with whatever they need to do. Children are enjoying the responsibility and developing their independence skills too.

The only complaints I have received to date relate to cars trying to drive through the line and turning in the staff car park or in fact parking in the staff car park to drop children off. The other concern which has been raised by a few parents is that some car engines are being left on and exhaust fumes are being expelled right beside where the children line up at the main gate. Obviously, this can have a negative impact on children who have certain medical conditions and again, I would ask parents waiting in vehicles to be mindful of this.

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I understand that everyone has busy lives but leaving just a few minutes earlier or parking in surrounding streets and walking to the school would help to ensure we avoid a serious accident.

Many thanks for your help and understanding with this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

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